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Saturday December 16 1995

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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US fears nuclear test race

Spy pictures fuel alarm about India

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi and Jonathan Freedland in Washington

FEARS that a planned atomic test by India could trigger a nuclear race by the developing world and shatter hopes of a comprehensive test ban treaty were highlighted last night by senior officials in the Clinton administration.

Anxiety that recent tests by France and China have opened a Pandora's Box was heightened by reports in the New York Times that United States spy satellites had recorded suspicious activity at the Pokharan nuclear test site in India's Rajasthan desert — which could indicate a test within months or much sooner. India's last atomic detonation was in 1974.

The Indian government called the reports speculation but stopped short of a full denial. It said the satellite pictures showed army exercises whose "movements have been absurdly misinterpreted".

But a US state department spokesman, Glyn Davies, said: "If there were to be an explosive test by India it would be a dramatic departure from India's own long-standing position against testing. Any such test would be a setback to disarmament efforts internationally — disarmament efforts which India itself has championed."

"We're not sure what they're up to," a senior American source told the New York Times. "If their motive is to get scientific knowledge, it might be months or years before they do the test. If it's for purely political reasons, it could be this weekend."

Washington fears any nuclear activity by New Delhi will trigger a tit-for-tat test by its arch-rival, Pakistan. Both countries have refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Signalling trouble ahead, Pakistan described the US report as an "ominous development".

The Clinton administration now fears its campaign for a global test ban might, paradoxically, be spurring nuclear powers to test their arsenals before it comes into effect.

"The French have refused to listen to world opinion and the United States is not disarming itself and has not responded to the spirit of the comprehensive test ban treaty or the NPT, therefore there is a kind of unanimity in the country to start nuclear weapons tests before it is closed for all Third World countries," said Dhirendra Sharma, convener of India's National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy.

Hardliners in New Delhi have strongly pushed for a test in recent months, claiming that without one India risk's allowing its armoury to become obselete.

A weapons test would also be a dramatic way for the beleaguered ruling Congress party to prove its political strength in the face of attacks from the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest opposition faction. The BJP officially supports the "weaponising" of India and has urged New Delhi to spell out its nuclear policy.

Many middle class Indians agree, seeing nuclear capability as a symbol of New Delhi's status as a world player, and the NPT as a means by which the developed world can exclude newcomers to the nuclear club.

Senior Indian party leaders said they doubted that the government was preparing for a test, describing the New York Times report as a US-inspired leak aimed at ensuring Western states retain their advantage in the development of nuclear weapons.

"I think it's a plant by the state department which is engaging in a kind of warning signal," said Jaswant Singh, the deputy parliamentary leader of the BJP, who comes from the area where the tests allegedly are to be conducted.

The Indian external affairs ministry spokesman, Arif Khan, also dismissed the report. Other ministry officials said it was highly speculative. "It's normal to have routine military exercises and troop movements in a border area," one said.

A Pakistani diplomat described the move as "an ominous development" bound to intensify tension.

Officially India does not have a nuclear weapons programme, only civilian power plants for producing energy, or research reactors. However it does have plutonium which, because it has not signed the NPT, is not under International Atomic Energy Authority safeguards.

Worldwide non-proliferation efforts did receive one boost yesterday, when the Asean conference of 10 South-East Asian states agreed to make their region nuclear-free.

The US and China had objected to the move, fearing it would restrict ship and submarine movements.

Major bows to the Euro tide

John Palmer and Michael White in Madrid

JOHN Major's dire warnings that European unity could be fatally undermined by a single currency were brushed aside by fellow European Union leaders last night as they unveiled the compromise choice of "Euro" as the new money's name and forged ahead regardless with the Maastricht federal agenda.

In a display of collective will at the start of the Madrid summit, the EU also formally ratified a detailed strategy for beginning monetary union in January 1999 and introducing the single currency in stages over the subsequent three years — with only a modest nod to British demands for a more thorough examination of the risks.

The unanimous agreement to baptise the single currency the Euro was hailed by the President of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, as "an historic and irreversible step to closer European union". Citizens of participating states will get Euro coins and notes in their pockets in the first half of 2002 as national currencies are gradually withdrawn.

In remarks seemingly directed at Euro-sceptics in Britain, Mr Santer added: "The European Council today gave a strong signal of determination which should discard remaining doubts and hesitations."

The enthusiasm of the majority was in marked contrast to British wariness. But Mr Major's acceptance of the 1998 timetable for a decision on a single currency effectively rules out the option of making an election campaign issue of saying "no" to a single currency in the next parliament. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, emphatically underlined the point last night — to the likely dismay of Eurosceptics.

Mr Major and Mr Clarke made plain their fears about an "Alice in Wonderland world" in which national governments might have to tighten their financial belts as the EU spent more to make the currency target happen.

They also insisted successfully that the strict Maastricht-imposed terms for membership will not be watered down in "sweetheart deals" for countries which fail to meet them.

Other EU leaders were quick to underline the importance of the decision to go all out for monetary union by 1999. The Portuguese prime minister, Antonio Guterres, even injected a biblical note when he recalled Jesus's designation of St Peter as "the rock on which I will build my church", adding "the Euro is the rock on which we will build a united Europe".

The final decision on the name of the currency was taken with remarkably little difficulty. President Jacques Chirac of France at first wondered whether a public opinion poll should be held to choose a name but he quickly fell into line behind the Euro. Mr Major mentioned that "the florin, the crown and the shilling have deeper roots in our history".

But in the end all agreed that Euro posed the fewest problems. "It is not the most romantic choice but it will do," said the Swedish prime minister designate, Goran Persson. British ministers agreed. It was "an important but secondary issue" compared with getting the details right, said Mr Clarke.

The summit agreement came on the heels of news that the French strike wave is subsiding and as EU finance ministers expressed hopes that lower international interest rates would boost flagging growth rates in the European economies. "The decision is a triumph for the European Union," the Spanish finance minister, Pedro Solbes, declared. "Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) will now definitely start on the first of January 1999."

Madrid summit, page 3; Leader, page 14

A London shop window shows Virginia Bottomley on television as she unveils details of the bill

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Main points

- Limit of two ITV licences removed and replaced with cap of 15% of total TV audience.
- Newspapers with more than 20 % of national circulation barred from owning ITV licences.
- Prospect of up to 36 digital TV channels as BBC given its own digital multiplex.
- Channel 4 funding formula to be revised from 1998.
- Merger of Broadcasting Standards Council and Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

'While we cannot have a charter for a monopoly, we are saying we want big British companies to win new opportunities'

– Virginia Bottomley

Murdoch wins in media free-for-all

TV companies set for new round of takeovers and 'global launch'

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

THE Government yesterday unleashed a virtual media ownership free-for-all, but retreated from plans to impose tough new curbs on Rupert Murdoch's empire, when it published the Broadcasting Bill yesterday.

Virginia Bottomley, National Heritage Secretary, revealed details of a package which she said would provide the launch-pad for British companies to compete on the global stage.

The bill — the first substantial piece of media legislation for five years — lays down the framework for an explosion of choice for viewers with the possibility of up to 36 new digital channels. In the City, share prices climbed in ITV companies seen as likely takeover targets after the lifting of the two-licence limit. Granada-London Weekend Television and MAI, owners of Meridian and Anglia, are seen as potential bidders for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees.

Most newspaper groups welcomed the new ownership rules which will permit them to control ITV companies for the first time.

But Mr Murdoch's News International and Mirror Group are barred from moving into ITV because they each exceed the threshold of 20 per cent of total national circulation.

The measures do not prevent them from expanding their cable and satellite interests and they will be permitted to run digital television services. Mrs Bottomley denied she had been too kind to Mr Murdoch.

"We believe the necessary checks are in place. Mr Murdoch has no reason to be upset ... we cannot have a charter for a monopoly, but we are saying we want big successful British companies to win those new opportunities."

Mr Murdoch responded with anger in May when the Government published the first draft of its proposals, describing them as "proposals of old, vested and often unsuccessful interests."

But yesterday's response from News International was measured: "There is nothing in this bill that inhibits our current business."

Mr Murdoch's anger seems to have abated because the Government has significantly backtracked from long-term plans to impose a 10 per cent limit on total share of the national media cake.

The most wounded response to the long-awaited bill came from Channel 4, despite its winning a significant concession.

The safety net funding formula, under which Channel 4 is likely to pay ITV £300 million in five years, is to be reviewed from 1998, as Whitehall officials insisted they wanted to reduce the burden on the station.

The BBC won a significant victory in its campaign to manage its own digital multiplex, which means it will be able to offer up to six new services, including 24-hour news and additional sports coverage.

Classic FM and the other national commercial radio stations were guaranteed long-term stability if they invest in digital radio.

Jack Cunningham, the shadown national heritage secretary, said the removal of ITV's two-licence limit would require close scrutiny.

Leader comment, page 14

Oxford academic and broadcaster jailed for stealing antique books from colleges

Alex Bellos

AN OXFORD University academic was jailed yesterday for two years after he admitted stealing 78 books and manuscripts from college libraries including a first edition of Sir Isaac Newton's Principia Mathematica worth £67,500.

Simon Heighes, aged 33, a leading expert on baroque music who broadcasts regularly on Radio 3, made more than £140,000 by selling the stolen works to Blackwell's bookshop and Sotheby's auctioneers.

Heighes, who taught part-time at Queen's and Oriel colleges, was regarded as an eminent, respected and trustworthy academic and was given free reign of the town's 100-odd libraries, Oxford crown court heard.

But in 1992 he began a three year period of thieving that only ended when Christ Church college research library discovered two rare books were missing. A check revealed Heighes had been working there on the last days that both books were seen. Police searched his house and found eight books in a suitcase under his bed.

After checking his bank accounts and correspondence, police discovered he had stolen many more books from Christ Church, including the Principia, and dozens of items from Queen's and Trinity college, London, which the libraries were unaware had gone.

Heighes sold the Principia to Blackwell's for £63,500, saying it was from his late grandfather's collection, and it was then sold for £4,000 more to a buyer in the US. Books also found their way to Germany and Italy, said Detective Constable Stephen Honey. Several have not been traced.

Heighes, from Oxford, admitted 12 charges of theft and obtaining property by deception and asked for 113 other offences to be considered. Patrick Eccles, defending, said he feels "a genuine sense of shame and guilt."

He said Heighes used the money to pay off his mortgage, but had now sold his house and, with an inheritance, had £195,000 available for compensation. This will be dealt with in January.

The case has prompted several of Oxford's libraries to review their security arrangements, as many have priceless books dating back to the 11th century.

Penelope Bulloch, chairwoman of the committee of college librarians, said: "We keep our security conditions under constant review. We are aware that something awful can happen, but we normally hope we can trust our academics."

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Syria brings new hope to peace talks

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, flew from Syria to Israel last night bearing news of "substantial progress" on renewing peace talks. After meeting President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, he said he would deliver new ideas for reviving the negotiations to Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister.

With optimism flowing from both countries, Mr Christopher fuelled the intense speculation with an uncharacteristically upbeat assessment. "We had positive and constructive discussions with President Assad here today. We made substantial progress," he told reporters in Damascus.

After meeting Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and King Hussein of Jordan today, Mr Christopher is expected to return to Damascus tomorrow with a response from Mr Peres.

The Israeli leader has given the clearest signal of his willingness to give up the occupied Golan Heights in return for a full peace treaty with Syria.

Mr Peres told the Israeli daily paper Ma'ariv: "I have no doubt that Israel should pay the full price in return for a full peace. I think that without it there will never be peace."

He acknowledged that any retreat from the Golan would be deeply unpopular in Israel, and possibly politically suicidal.

But he added: "It is possible that a one-time opportunity has arisen to put an end to the issue, to the state of belligerency in the Middle East. I would never be able to forgive myself had I allowed this opportunity to slip just because it may have enabled me to remain in power."

Since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin last month, Mr Peres has made it clear that peace with Syria and Lebanon is his main goal. His appointment of Ehud Barak, the recently retired army chief, to the foreign ministry was, officials say, calculated to reassure Israelis that their security will remain the top priority.

But while Mr Barak will undoubtedly seek to drive a hard bargain on security guarantees, there is equally little doubt that Mr Peres himself will play a leading role in any talks, as well as and in taking the key decisions.

The time may never be more right for peace talks, with both countries strongly indicating a new flexibility. Israel has dropped its insistence on a first round of talks between senior military officers. One of the ideas now is that Israel could withdraw its forces from the strip of land in south Lebanon, in return for a Syrian promise to eradicate the Islamist and other militant groups there.

Syria, for its part, has offered through Mr Christopher a more open approach to the negotiations, and through the official media in Damascus has sent the clearest signals that it is anxious for the talks to begin soon.

Perhaps the most important factor behind the new optimism is Washington's palpable enthusiasm for a new triumph of US-brokered Middle East peacemaking in the 11 months before President Clinton bids for re-election.

Rock of rage . . . A woman injured by stone-throwing opponents of President Aristide is helped by bystanders in a suburb of Port-au-Prince PHOTOGRAPH: BEBETO MATTHEWS

Icy frontier may be a a hothouse of trade

John Henley on a market facing the Finnish border post of Kelloselkä-Salla

IN THE frozen blue stillness of a December afternoon, two wooden cabins face each other across a snow-covered clearing. Between them, a thin, straight and bare strip of ground runs through the birch forest to the horizon.

Jaakko Kaukanen marches to a small white peg precisely halfway across. "Stop!" he said. "No need to make them nervous." Forty yards away, two great-coated figures stamp their feet and heft their rifles, watching.

Stretching 200 miles across some of the most desolate and sparsely-populated terrain in Europe, Finland's Arctic border with Russia is the stuff of which spy movies are made. But as Russia runs short of cash for an army increasingly distracted by other, more volatile, borders, the Finnish frontier guard is worried that the cold war calm may be about to end.

"The Russian border guard are still very good," said Lieutenant-Colonel Kaukanen, deputy commander of the Finnish guard's Lapland district.

"They have almost totally prevented illegal emigration. But now they have motivation and discipline problems. We don't know how long they can support such a huge guard on an essentially peaceful border."

Lt-Col Kaukanen's 600 guards patrol about a quarter of Finland's — now the European Union's — 800-mile border with Russia. They are professionals and their jobs are coveted. His opposite number in the Russian garrison town of Alakurtti has 20,000 men, almost all conscripts.

Until 1991 few Russian civilians could come within 60 miles of Kelloselkä, the scene of some of the most bitter fighting in Finland's winter war with Russia. Afterwards, in 1945 the railway line that crossed the border was pulled up at the insistence of the Soviet authorities.

On the Russian side an electric fence runs behind the 10-yard border clearing. Although, like Finland's, Russia's exclusion zone officially begins three miles from the border, patrols go much deeper.

Finland has a wire fence designed to deter reindeer not people. Working in pairs, on skis or snowmobile, border guards patrol for up to 10 days at a time. They have almost no contact with their Russian counterparts, except for a week in July when joint patrols walk the length of the border. "Generally we don't talk to them," said Captain Hannu Markkula, second-in-command of the local forces. "Not at all, in fact."

The frontier at Kelloselkä was opened to Finnish and Russian traffic in 1993. There have been 20,000 crossings this year, mainly loggers and construction workers from Finland and Russian shoppers, according to Capt Markkula. Finnish ironing boards, for some reason, are much sought after in Alakurtti.

"It isn't illegal immigrants that are the problem," said Lt-Col Kaukanen. "We've had only five or six cases this year. And we've more or less put a stop to car smuggling. The greatest threat now is economic crime: Finns are as good as Russians at doing illegal business across the border."

While there were only 200,000 people in the whole of Finnish Lapland, he said, there were well over a million in the Murmansk region a few hours north-west — an enticing market.

Finns hope Kelloselkä can become a busy international crossing, opening up a land route from Finnish ports to Murmansk and the vast mineral resources of the Kola peninsular. But it will be some years before the Russians are ready, Capt Markkula said.

For the moment, as a Russian family unloads a dozen shopping bags, a cassette player and two ironing boards from their car, Kelloselkä is silent in the snow.

At -12C, it is also quite unseasonably warm. Lieutenant Antero Jussila, a guard for 25 years, remembers when it was -47C. "The snow stuck to your skis," he said. "Now that was cold."

The weather in Europe

Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	19	12	Sh
Amsterdam	2	-2	F
Athens	11	3	F
Berlin	1	-1	F
Bonn	0	-2	C
Brussels	3	0	C
Copenhagen	4	-3	F
Crete	12	4	F
Geneva	4	2	Dr
Larnaca	16	7	F
London	4	2	C
Madrid	10	2	F
Milan	10	5	C
Nice	12	6	C
Oslo	2	-3	M
Paris	5	3	Dr
Rome	16	5	Sh
Stockholm	3	-2	F
Tunis	19	9	Sh
Vienna	3	1	F

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	19	12	Sh
Amsterdam	5	2	C
Athens	11	1	S
Berlin	5	2	F
Bonn	5	2	C
Brussels	6	3	F
Copenhagen	5	0	C
Crete	13	6	F
Geneva	5	0	M
Larnaca	14	8	S
London	5	3	C
Madrid	9	2	Sh
Milan	9	3	Sh
Nice	13	5	C
Oslo	2	-3	C
Paris	6	4	C
Rome	14	4	F
Stockholm	3	-3	C
Tunis	18	8	F
Vienna	6	1	M

Monday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	18	11	Sh
Amsterdam	6	2	C
Athens	14	8	F
Berlin	5	1	C
Bonn	5	1	C
Brussels	6	2	C
Copenhagen	2	-3	Sn
Crete	14	9	F
Geneva	6	2	C
Larnaca	16	11	S
London	5	2	Dr
Madrid	10	4	Sh
Milan	11	5	C
Nice	9	6	F
Oslo	-2	-10	Sn
Paris	6	3	C
Rome	15	7	S
Stockholm	-1	-7	Sn
Tunis	16	9	F
Vienna	4	-1	C

Tuesday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	18	11	Sh
Amsterdam	3	0	F
Athens	14	5	F
Berlin	4	-2	F
Bonn	3	-3	F
Brussels	4	0	C
Copenhagen	-1	-5	Sn
Crete	13	8	F
Geneva	4	-2	F
Larnaca	16	9	F
London	5	2	C
Madrid	14	8	F
Milan	11	5	F
Nice	10	5	F
Oslo	-2	-7	Sn
Paris	5	2	C
Rome	15	8	F
Stockholm	-5	-8	Sn
Tunis	15	9	F
Vienna	2	-3	F

C cloudy Cl clear Dr drizzle F fair Fg fog H hail Hz haze R rain Sh showers Sl sleet Sn snow S sunny Th thunder (previous day's readings)

Around the world

Lunchtime yesterday (previous day in Americas)

Ajaccio	F	16	61
Algiers	R	16	61
Amsterdam	C	-1	30
Athens	F	16	61
B Aires	S	26	79
Bahrain	C	14	57
Barbados	F	28	82
Barcelona	M	7	45
Belgrade	M	1	34
Berlin	F	-2	28
Biarritz	F	1	34
Bombay	S	30	86
Bordeaux	C	0	32
Boston	Sn	-5	23
Brussels	C	0	32
Budapest	S	3	37
Cairo	F	18	68
Calgary	S	-16	3
Cape Town	F	22	72
Casablanca	Sh	17	63
Chicago	C	2	36
Copenhagen	F	1	34
Corfu	F	15	59
Dakar	F	25	77
Dallas	S	22	72
Darwin	C	29	84
Djakarta	C	29	84
Dublin	Sh	5	41
Faro	S	13	55
Florence	R	5	41
Frankfurt	C	1	34
Funchal	C	18	64
Geneva	M	-1	30
Gibraltar	Sh	18	64
Hamburg	S	0	32
Harare	Th	22	72
Helsinki	C	-2	28
Hong Kong	C	21	70
Innsbruck	C	-1	30
Islamabad	F	13	55
Istanbul	Sh	9	48
Jersey	S	1	34
Jo'burg	F	23	73
K. Lumpur	F	31	88
Karachi	S	28	82
Katmandu	S	17	63
Kingston	S	29	84
Larnaca	S	17	63
Lima	F	22	72
Lisbon	S	9	48
London	Dr	2	36
Los Angeles	S	18	64
Luxembourg	C	-2	28
Madrid	R	2	36
Majorca	Sh	16	61
Malaga	R	15	59
Malta	S	15	59
Manila	R	26	79
Mexico City	S	19	66
Miami	F	27	81
Milan	R	4	39
Montreal	F	-15	5
Moscow	F	-6	21
Munich	C	-2	28
Nairobi	F	25	77
Naples	C	19	66
Nassau	S	26	79
New Delhi	S	20	68
New Orleans	F	25	77
New York	C	-1	30
Nice	Dr	8	46
Oporto	S	8	46
Oslo	S	-3	27
Paris	C	0	32
Perth	C	23	73
Port Stanley	F	12	54
Prague	M	-3	27
Reykjavik	S	2	36
Rhodes	F	17	63
Rio de Jan.	Dr	24	75
Riyadh	F	14	57
Rome	C	17	63
Singapore	C	27	81
Stockholm	F	1	34
Strasbourg	S	1	34
Sydney	F	24	75
Tel Aviv	F	17	63
Tokyo	S	15	59
Toronto	R	1	34
Tunis	F	19	66
Valencia	Dr	9	48
Vancouver	Sh	9	48
Venice	R	5	41
Vienna	M	0	32
Warsaw	S	-3	27
Washington	R	2	36
Wellington	F	17	63
Zurich	M	-3	27

European weather outlook

Scandinavia:

Northern parts of Norway and Sweden will become very cold and windy with occasional scattered sharp snow showers. The rest of Scandinavia should be largely dry with temperatures above freezing in the south. Max temp -8 to +4C from north to south.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:

Another cold and cloudy day with limited bright spells, but it should be dry in the Low Countries and Germany with rain and mountain snow confined to Switzerland and Austria. Max temp 0 to +4C.

France:

Southern and western France will be cloudy and damp with some rain from time to time, but it will turn much milder. North-eastern France is likely to stay dry but the cold weather will hang on in this area. Max temp 1C ion the north-east, 10-13C in the south.

Spain and Portugal:

Rain in the extreme east should clear away gradually with some bright weather following, but Portugal and western Spain will become cloudy and wet after a reasonably bright start. Max temp 9-15C.

Italy:

A few bright or sunny spells here and there but with plenty of cloud and the chance of some light showers or drizzle, but it will be mild. Max temp 10-16C.

Greece:

An area of high pressure, centred over southern Russia and Poland, is controlling the weather and should ensure all areas have a dry day with some bright or sunny intervals. Max temp 8-12C after a cold start.

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1

6.25am News; Weather. 8.30 SuperTed. 8.40 Willy Fog. 9.05 The Addams Family. 9.30 The New Adventures of Superman. 10.15 Live and Kicking. 1.12 Weather. 1.15 Grandstand. 6.10 News; Weather. 6.20 Regional News and Weather. 6.25 Dad's Army. 6.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. 7.50 Auntie's Christmas Crackers. 8.00 Noel's House Party. 8.50 The National Lottery Live. 9.05 Casualty. 9.55 News and Sport; Weather. 10.15 FILM: Scrooged. 11.50 Match Of The Day. 12.55 Golf. 2.25 Weather. 2.30 Close.

BBC 2

9.20am Open University: Gwen - A Working Life. 11.00 Chanakya. 11.40 Video Byte. 11.50 Network East. 12.10 Bollywood Or Bust. 12.50 Film 95 With Barry Norman. 1.20 Still In Business. 1.35 FILM: Saturday Matinee: Duel In The Sun. 3.40 FILM: Saturday Matinee: Solomon And Sheba. 5.55 The Oprah Winfrey Show. 6.35 TOTP2. 7.20 One Man And His Dog. 8.05 News And Sport; Weather. 8.20 Assignment. 9.05 TX. 9.55 Close Up. 10.00 Screen Two: Saigon Baby. 11.35 Have I Got News For You. 12.05 Unplugged: The Eagles - Hell Freezes Over. 1.15 FILM: Raging Bull. 3.25 Close.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

6.00am BBC World News. 6.30 Rainbow. 6.45 Creepy Crawlies. 7.00 The Return Of Dogtanian. 7.25 The Really Wild Guide To Britain. 7.50 The Wind In The Willows. 8.10 Blue Peter. 8.35 Mike And Angelo. 8.55 Dr Who. 9.20 Hot Chefs. 9.30 Best Of Kilroy. 10.20 The Best Of Anne And Nick. 12.05 The Best Of Pebble Mill. 12.50 Pets Win Prizes. 1.30 Eastenders. 3.00 Mike And Angelo. 3.20 Count Duckula. 3.50 Dr Who. 4.15 Hi-De-Hi. 4.45 Hot Chefs. 5.25 Prime Weather. 5.30 Castles. 6.00 BBC World News. 6.20 How To Be A Little S*d. 6.30 Strike It Lucky. 7.00 Noel's House Party. 8.00 Casualty. 8.55 Prime Weather. 9.00 A Question Of Sport. 9.30 Alas Smith And Jones. 10.00 The Never-On-A-Sunday Show. 10.30 Top Of The Pops. 11.00 The Young Ones. 11.30 Later With Jools Holland. 12.30 The Bill Omnibus. 1.20 Castles. 1.50 Animal Hospital. 2.30 Best Of Kilroy. 3.20 Best Of Anne And Nick. 5.10 The Best Of Pebble Mill.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

6.00am BBC World News. 6.20 The Late Show. 7.00 BBC World News. 7.15 Everyman. 8.00 BBC World Headlines. 8.05 Rough Guide To The World's Islands. 9.00 BBC World News. 9.25 Time Out: Holiday. 10.00 World News Headlines. 10.05 Horizon. 11.00 World News. 11.20 Britain In View. 12.00 World Headlines. 12.05 The World Debate. 1.00 World News. 1.20 World News Week. 2.00 World News. 2.25 Time Out: Film '95. 3.00 World Headlines. 3.05 Assignment. 4.00 World News. 4.25 Time Out: Ged. 5.00 World News. 5.25 Time Out: The Clothes Show. 6.00 World News. 6.20 World News Week. 7.00 World News. 7.20 The Late Show. 8.00 World Headlines. 8.05 Horizon. 9.00 World News. 9.25 Time Out: Top Gear. 10.00 World News. 10.25 World Business Review. 11.00 World News. 11.25 World Business Review. 12.00 World News. 12.25 India Business Report. 1.00 World News. 1.25 World Business Review. 2.00 World News. 2.25 India Business Report. 3.00 World News. 3.25 World Business Review. 4.00 World News. 4.25 Time Out: Food And Drink. 5.00 World News. 5.20 Britain In View

Radio 4

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The Movie Channel

● Astra

7.00 In Name Only. 9.00 Top Cat And The Beverly Hills Cats. 11.00 A Home Of Our Own. 1.00 Seduced By Evil. 3.00 Rigoletto. 5.00 Two Much Trouble. 7.00 A Home Of Our Own. 9.00 Red Rock West. 11.00 The Last Seduction. 12.50 Black Fox: The Price Of Peace. 2.25 Incident In A Small Town. 4.00 Praying Mantis. 5.30 Two Much Trouble.

Sky Movies

● Astra

7.00 Showcase. 9.00 Silver Bears. 11.00 Ghost In The Noonday Sun. 1.00 Quest For Justice. 3.00 Oh, Heavenly Dog! 4.50 The Wonderful World Of The Brothers Grimm. 7.00 Meteor Man. 9.00 Lifepod. 11.00 Hoffa. 1.20 Bare Exposure. 2.50 Romper Stomper. 4.20 Tennessee Nights.

Sky Movies Gold

● Astra

5.00 Shepherd Of The Hills. 7.00 El Dorado. 9.00 Help! 11.00 Hamburger Hill. 1.00 Darling. 3.05 Claire's Knee. 4.55 Close.

Sky Sports

● Astra

8.00 International Cricket: South Africa Vs England: International Cr. 4.00 Sports Saturday Football Update. 6.30 Gillette World Sport Special. 7.00 Sky Sports Centre. 7.30 International Cricket. 10.00 Ringside Boxing On The Road. 12.00 Bushido — The Ultimate Fight. 1.00 Big Time Boxing Special. 4.30 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

8.00 Eurofun. 8.30 Basketball. 9.30 Biathlon. 10.00 Live Biathlon. 11.30 Live Alpine Skiing. 12.40 Live Alpine Skiing. 2.15 Live Ski Jumping. 3.45 Bobsleigh. 5.00 Alpine Skiing. 6.00 Freestyle Skiing. 7.00 Boxing. 8.00 Equestrianism. 9.00 Live Golf. 11.00 Live Karting. 12.00 Funsports. 12.30 Pro Wrestling. 1.00 International Motorsports Report. 2.00 Close.

Sky One

● Astra

8.00 Postcards From The Hedge. 10.00 Ghoul-Lashed. 12.30 Shoot! 1.00 World Wrestling Federation Mania. 2.00 The Hit Mix. 3.00 Wonder Woman. 4.00 Growing Pains. 4.30 Family Ties. 5.00 Kung Fu, The Legend Continues. 6.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. 7.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars. 8.00 Robocop. 9.00 VR.5. 10.00 Cops. 10.30 The Serial Killers. 11.00 Dream On. 11.30 Tales From The Crypt. 12.00 The Movie Show. 12.30 Forever Knight. 1.30 WKRP In Cincinnati. 2.00 Saturday Night Live. 3.00 Hit Mix Long Play.

UK Gold

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8.00 Lassie. 8.30 Going For Gold. 9.00 Warship. 10.00 Secret Army. 11.00 Neighbours Omnibus. 1.00 All Creatures Great And Small. 2.50 The Best Of The Top Of The Pops. 3.15 EastEnders Omnibus. 6.00 Till Death Us Do Part. 7.00 George And Mildred. 7.30 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. 8.35 Taxi. 9.05 Bread. 10.35 Film: LA Story. 12.15 Film: Broadway Danny Rose. 1.50 The Album Show. 2.50 Shopping At Night. 4.00 Close.

NBC Superchannel

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7.00 The McLaughlin Group. 7.30 Hello Austria, Hello Vienna. 8.00 ITN World News. 8.30 Europa Journal. 9.00 Cyberschool. 10.00 Cyberschool: Computer Chronicles: Fall Comdex. 10.30 Cyberschool: At Home: Foreign Language Software. 11.00 Super Shop. 12.00 Wine Express. 12.30 Great Houses Of The World. 1.00 Videofashion! 1.30 Talkin' Blues. 2.00 NHL Power Week. 3.00 Golf. 4.00 Iron Man - Iron Woman. 5.00 Skiing. 6.00 ITN World News. 6.30 Air Combat. 7.30 The Best Of The Selina Scott Show. 8.30 Dateline International. 9.30 ITN World News. 10.00 The Tonight Show With Jay Leno. 11.00 Race Of Champions. 12.00 Late Night With Conan O'Brien. 1.00 Talkin' Blues. 1.30 The Tonight Show With Jay Leno. 2.30 Late Night With Conan O'Brien. 3.30 Talkin' Blues. 4.00 Rivera Live. 5.00 International Business View. 5.30 NBC News. 6.00 Weekly Business. 6.30 NBC News With Tom Brokaw

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

5.00 Reaching For The Skies. 6.00 Reaching For The Skies. 7.00 Reaching For The Skies. 8.00 Reaching For The Skies. 9.00 Reaching For The Skies. 10.00 Frontline. 10.30 Secret Weapons. 11.00 Old Indians Never Die. 12.00 Chrome Dreams. 1.00 Close.

Television and radio — Sunday

BBC 1

8.25am News; Weather. 8.30 SuperTed. 8.40 Willy Fog. 9.05 The Addams Family. 9.30 The New Adventures of Superman. 10.15 Live and Kicking. 1.12 Weather. 1.15 Grandstand. 6.10 News; Weather. 6.20 Regional News and Weather. 6.25 Dad's Army. 6.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. 7.50 Auntie's Christmas Crackers. 8.00 Noel's House Party. 8.50 The National Lottery Live. 9.05 Casualty. 9.55 News and Sport; Weather. 10.15 FILM: Scrooged. 11.50 Match Of The Day. 12.55 Golf. 2.25 Weather. 2.30 Close.

BBC 2

9.20am Open University: Gwen - A Working Life. 11.00 Chanakya. 11.40 Video Byte. 11.50 Network East. 12.10 Bollywood Or Bust. 12.50 Film 95 With Barry Norman. 1.20 Still In Business. 1.35 FILM: Saturday Matinee: Duel In The Sun. 3.40 FILM: Saturday Matinee: Solomon And Sheba. 5.55 The Oprah Winfrey Show. 6.35 TOTP2. 7.20 One Man And His Dog. 8.05 News And Sport; Weather. 8.20 Assignment. 9.05 TX. 9.55 Close Up. 10.00 Screen Two: Saigon Baby. 11.35 Have I Got News For You. 12.05 Unplugged: The Eagles - Hell Freezes Over. 1.15 FILM: Raging Bull. 3.25 Close.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

6.00am BBC World News. 6.30 Rainbow. 6.45 Creepy Crawlies. 7.00 The Return Of Dogtanian. 7.25 The Really Wild Guide To Britain. 7.50 The Wind In The Willows. 8.10 Blue Peter. 8.35 Mike And Angelo. 8.55 Dr Who. 9.20 Hot Chefs. 9.30 Best Of Kilroy. 10.20 The Best Of Anne And Nick. 12.05 The Best Of Pebble Mill. 12.50 Pets Win Prizes. 1.30 Eastenders. 3.00 Mike And Angelo. 3.20 Count Duckula. 3.50 Dr Who. 4.15 Hi-De-Hi. 4.45 Hot Chefs. 5.25 Prime Weather. 5.30 Castles. 6.00 BBC World News. 6.20 How To Be A Little S*d. 6.30 Strike It Lucky. 7.00 Noel's House Party. 8.00 Casualty. 8.55 Prime Weather. 9.00 A Question Of Sport. 9.30 Alas Smith And Jones. 10.00 The Never-On-A-Sunday Show. 10.30 Top Of The Pops. 11.00 The Young Ones. 11.30 Later With Jools Holland. 12.30 The Bill Omnibus. 1.20 Castles. 1.50 Animal Hospital. 2.30 Best Of Kilroy. 3.20 Best Of Anne And Nick. 5.10 The Best Of Pebble Mill.

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Labour backs greater EU powers

John Palmer in Madrid

THE Labour Party has held out the prospect that a Blair government could agree to the European Parliament, Commission and Court playing a bigger role in shaping common policies on justice and home affairs. A declaration yesterday by leaders of European Union socialist parties calls for radical reforms to the present system, under which these decisions are taken by national governments alone, each with an unqualified right of veto.

Labour's movement on what is called the third pillar of the Maastricht treaty was hailed at the Madrid EU summit as improving the prospects of eventual agreement between a Labour government and the rest of the EU about changes to the treaty. These will be negotiated at the inter-governmental conference which will begin next March but may not end until after the general election.

Until now the Labour frontbench has taken a line almost identical to the government's, opposing any move to majority voting or role for the EU institutions in justice and home affairs.

But the declaration by socialist leaders, including Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, and the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, says: "It has to be recognised that the citizens of Europe rightfully demand effective policies which by definition mean EU initiatives complementing national efforts."

The declaration acknowledges that decisions about immigration and asylum should "generally" be taken unanimously. But it insists on a "strengthening of decision making in appropriate areas, a stronger role for the European Commission, democratic scrutiny by the European Parliament and the availability of judicial review by the European Court of Justice, in appropriate agreed areas".

This implies that Labour would support giving the the European Court a role in supervising Europol, the embryonic EU police body, which the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, has bitterly opposed.

In the debate about changes to the Maastricht treaty, the phrase "strengthening decision making" is usually a euphemism for greater majority voting. In a section of the declaration dealing with the future enlargement of the EU, Mr Prescott and Mr Cook agreed that "it is not realistic to believe that a union of 27 states would be able to pursue policies effectively on the basis of unanimity."

"In Community matters, there should be a significant extension of qualified majority voting, while acknowledging that in a limited number of areas of vital interest, the principle of unanimity should remain."

Labour's support for the European socialist manifesto was praised yesterday by the Belgian Socialist commissioner for competition, Karel van Miert. "This is very encouraging," he said.

"Labour's constructive approach increases the chances of a successful outcome to the 1996 IGC on closer European Union. We all want to be able to deal with a Labour government in London as soon as possible."

During the discussion, Mr Prescott underlined the importance of reducing unemployment to ensure the success of monetary union. It was agreed that Maastricht should be amended to make the achievement of "the maximum level of employment" a legally binding goal. The Dutch, Swedish, Danish and Spanish socialist prime ministers all insisted that achieving a single currency was essential in the fight for full employment.

Leader comment, page 14

Waiting in the wings . . . John Major ready to be received by King Juan Carlos of Spain during the signing ceremony in Madrid's Royal Palace yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL WHITE

15 could become 30 in 10 years

John Palmer

THE European Union will accelerate its extension to Mediterranean and eastern European countries, possibly doubling its membership in the next 10 years.

Last night its heads of government were setting out a timetable for enlargement under which membership negotiations could start in two years time.

The cost of absorbing 10 to 15 new members is considerable, but EU leaders now believe this is essential.

John Major said: "We have to take this step to underpin peace and prosperity eastward.

"It will also increase the political influence of the European Union internationally."

When it meets 11 heads of government from aspiring new members today the European Union will tell them that negotiations may begin in 1998 and some countries may achieve full membership by January 2000.

"All talk of putting off the difficult question of enlargement well into the next century has definitely been abandoned," a Commission official said.

"The debate now is about just how quickly we can proceed and at what rate new countries can be admitted."

Over dinner at the Pardo palace the 15 EU presidents and prime ministers heard the Spanish prime minister, Felipe González, say that negotiations with 10 or 11 countries should begin no later than six months after the end of the Maastricht treaty review conference.

Since that is expected to be in the middle of 1997, after the British general election, the negotiating could get under way in January 1998.

Last night the Polish prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, en route to the summit from Warsaw, predicted that Poland would join the European Union by 2000.

The main dispute in Madrid last night was whether the EU should begin talks with all 11 likely candidates simultaneously. Mr Kohl would prefer to begin with Poland, Hungary and the Czech republic. But the Danish prime minister, Niels Helveg Petersen, supported by most of the EU leaders, insisted that the applicants should not be divided into first and second divisions.

The EU has already agreed to begin negotiations with Malta and Cyprus.

Ironically, the Czech republic and Estonia are likely to meet the conditions for economic and monetary union before some existing EU members. But Germany is worried about Russia's reaction to the EU moving too fast to embrace the Baltic states as well as some of its former allies in central Europe.

"We have to remember that membership of the EU allows these countries to apply for membership of the Western European Union and to be covered by its Nato-backed security guarantees," a German official pointed out.

"That is why we may have to admit some countries later than others."

In theory any country which has secured a "Europe" association status with the EU is entitled to press for full membership. But the EU has made it clear that this will not apply to countries with a questionable record in democracy and minority rights.

Slovakia, which has been racked by internal political strife, is one country which may drop off the list of favoured applicants.

The ins, outs and pre-ins of coining the right name

Sketch

Michael White in Madrid

BRITISH diplomacy clocked up another triumph in Europe yesterday when the heads of government agreed to call the new-fangled single currency the Euro. The decision came shortly after John Major had denounced the name as "fairly uninspiring". And he should know.

Eurosceptics were predictably negative. The Euro doesn't even have a smaller denomination — (the Eurine?) — they whinged. It isn't even a prefix, so we can say Euro-pound or (strictly hypothetical, this one) Euro-lira.

But these people have no vision. The decision was the climax of a brilliant plot hatched in Whitehall to discredit the whole idea by landing the currency with a real plonker of a name. Only the ever enthusiastic Kenneth Clarke was not let in on the secret.

Plonker was one of the options rejected by the Euro leaders who turned up in the Spanish capital, those not at death's door like Andreas Papandreou, the Greek prime minister, or helping police with their inquiries. Fortunately Felipe González was the host and therefore did not need his passport.

Other suggestions failing the consensus test included dago and portillo (both cunningly proposed by the Foreign Office) and the florin, shilling, crown and ecu. The latter was particularly unacceptable to Chancellor Helmut Kohl because its linguistic origins can be traced to the homeland of his dear friend and ally, President Jacques Chirac.

What little hope exists that the Euro public will take the Euro to its heaving bosom may well be extinguished by a huge advertising campaign being planned in Brussels to make the plucky little currency as popular as BSE, Yorkshire Water and asylum seekers from Romania.

Comforting slogans, such as "the Euro in your pocket will not be devalued", are being market tested alongside, "I can remember the time when you could buy a round of drinks and a Chinese take-away and still get change from a Euro".

British spin doctors reported that the "little countries" had nodded approvingly while Mr Major made the case for Euro-caution. But it was not a day of unqualified triumph for the British bulldogs as snow fell on the summit's venue, a municipal conference building which could have been in the suburbs of Coventry, Copenhagen or Koblenz.

> 'The Euro in your pocket will not be devalued' is a comforting slogan

Basically what happened was that Messrs Major, Clarke and Rifkind urged their colleagues to think before rushing into a single currency which could topple the entire European project. Then their colleagues told them to take a running jump in all 11 EU languages, including English.

It is hard to understate the enthusiasm for a single currency among the governing elites across the channel. At one point yesterday, Antonio Guterres, the prime minister of Portugal, was moved to compare the occasion to Christ's injunction to St Peter: to be the rock on which he would build his church. "The Euro is the rock on which we will build Europe," he predicted.

As a symbol of Catholic universalism, the image was wholly appropriate to the Euro federal project. It would take a churlish northern Protestant to point out that St Peter was subsequently crucified upside down. Whether that happens to the Euro is a matter that governments feel should properly be left to George Soros and the gentlemen in red braces who speculate in Wonga.

Such is the enthusiasm here that, strictly speaking, there are three prospective categories: ins, outs and "pre-ins". These are countries which want to be in but will not qualify. Some are bankrupt or have banks run by the mafia and their television stations by Silvio Berlusconi, Europe's answer to You Know Who.

Come to think of it, ins, outs and pre-ins sound like some of those late-night smut shows which are Mr Berlusconi's contribution to the New Europe.

The day's momentous decisions took place before the heads of government trooped off to the royal palace to greet their newly allied Latin-American associates who are also itching to bring their hallowed traditions of currency stability to the new project. The ceremonies were followed by a long lunch before Euro hostilities resumed. The harmonised Euro-siesta is surely something we could all agree on.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SAFETY WARNING

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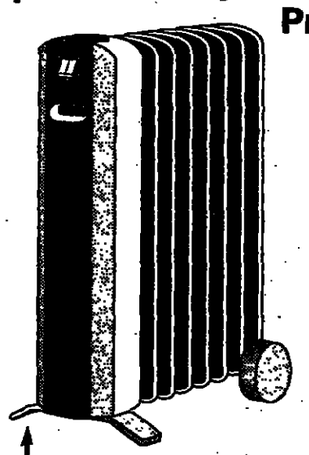
Dimplex New Style Column Electric Oil Filled Radiator Product Recall



Model Numbers
CR1507, CR2009 & CR2009T
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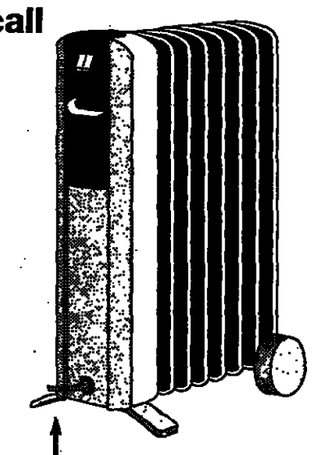

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It has come to our notice that some of the new style column type oil filled electric radiators, represent a safety hazard with the risk of dangerous fumes and fire.
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Review kicks off in Turin

Reuter in Madrid

EUROPEAN Union leaders agreed yesterday to launch the inter-governmental conference at a special summit in Turin on March 29 1996, Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian chancellor, said.

The conference, to review the EU's treaties and institutions will also help to prepare for expansion into eastern Europe.

Dr Vranitzky said EU foreign ministers would meet under Italian chairmanship before the launch to prepare the formal agenda.

Britain is vehemently opposed to many of the reforms likely to be pushed through during the review, which may last a year at least.

Britain fudges racism law

Michael White and Adela Gooch

THE Madrid summit was last night edging towards an expected compromise today over the proposed directive against racism and xenophobia which last month saw the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, isolated among his colleagues in Brussels.

Although no text acceptable to all 15 European Union states had reached Madrid from Brussels last night, British officials had agreed a form of words with the Spanish presidency of the European Council of Ministers which would protect Mr Howard's controversial claims to be upholding Britain's long experience in the field of race relations.

Mr Howard had astonished and angered fellow home affairs and justice ministers in blocking the draft on the grounds that it failed to strike a proper balance between freedom of expression and the need to prevent the spread of racist language and attacks within the EU.

Britain argued that its own legislation (much of it nearly 30 years' old) had not made the mere act of racist speech a criminal offence — as distinct from a matter for civil action — unless it could be proved that there was an abusive intention to incite racial hatred on the part of the speaker.

By way of contrast in some countries, notably Germany, the mere denial that the Holocaust against the Jews took place is a criminal offence.

There was also the complication of incitement to religious hatred. Britain claimed that the restrictions in some states — and, ironically, in Northern Ireland — might have required the Government to take action against Salman Rushdie over The Satanic Verses, deemed blasphemous in the Iranian fatwah.

The new draft would not render criminal actions in Britain which are not at present criminal, nor would it require Germany or other countries to modify their laws. The Spanish presidency has been keen to reach a compromise which would enable the issue to be finalised in this afternoon's communiqué from Madrid.

Austrian elections are raising the spectre of the Socialists' one-time pact to fund former Nazis, writes HELLA PICK

Waltzing with the devil

Seasonal message . . . An Austrian carries a Christmas tree past a poster of the far-right leader Jörg Haider, saying 'He has not deceived you' PHOTOGRAPH: HARALD SCHNEIDER

THE surprise telephone summons came just before midnight on March 1 1970. It was the end of a fateful election day in Austria which unexpectedly opened the way to the first post-war Socialist government, and produced a dismal outcome for the far-right Freedom Party (FPO).

The Socialists (SPO) won the largest number of seats, but did not have an absolute majority. Bruno Kreisky, the prospective chancellor, wanted an immediate meeting with the FPO leader, Friedrich Peter.

Mr Peter — the forerunner of today's controversial standard-bearer of the far right, Jörg Haider — made his way through the bitterly cold streets of Vienna to the SPO headquarters. He found Dr Kreisky in an unheated office, his feet tucked into large felt slippers, ruminating about Austria's political future.

"It was around 1.30am," Mr Peter recalls. "I can't say that Kreisky was addressing himself to me. He was just thinking aloud. He recalled how the FPO had been let down by unfulfilled promises made by Bruno Pitterman [a senior member of the SPO's executive] to back changes to the proportional voting system in the FPO's favour. Now he, Kreisky, wanted to make good on that commitment."

Dr Kreisky plainly wanted to form a minority government, and needed the assurance of FPO support in parliament. He and other senior SPO figures had calculated for years that the only way of breaking the political stranglehold of Austria's conservative People's Party (OVP) was to promote the FPO and make it *salonfähig* (respectable) enough to join an SPO coalition. At stake were an estimated 500,000 votes among former Nazis and Nazi sympathisers.

Mr Peter shared Dr Kreisky's goal. There is now incontrovertible evidence that the SPO gave substantial financial backing to the FPO during the 1960s, though they knew that Mr Peter had been a member of the Waffen SS, and that the party membership included many prominent former Nazis.

In 1949, the SPO had secretly channelled help in kind — notably scarce paper for election leaflets — to the FPO's more notorious forerunner, the Union of Independents (VDU), a group that made no attempt to hide its Nazi leanings.

At the end of the election campaign, as Austrians prepare to go to the polls tomorrow, the Socialist chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, insists that SPO history will not repeat itself. Unlike Dr Kreisky, he rules out a coalition or any electoral pact with the FPO, which has made steady advances in the opinion polls.

Kreisky's party is open to the charge that it helped breed a monster that could yet destroy democracy

According to Dr Vranitzky, the SPO will do nothing to further the ambitions of Mr Haider, whose xenophobia carries echoes of the country's Nazi past.

Yet, by promoting the FPO in the post-war era, the Socialists have laid themselves open to the charge that they helped breed a monster that could yet destroy the carefully nurtured democratic institutions of the Second Republic.

Of course, there was no Mr Haider on the horizon when the SPO began its flirtation with the far right in 1949, and intensified it after 1955, with the newly formed FPO.

In 1959, the two parties agreed on voting regulations that enabled the FPO to gain its first foothold in the Vienna municipality. There was also a small financial transfer to help towards the FPO's expenses in elections to the *Arbeiterkammer* — an important labour council body.

During general elections in 1962, a trade union chief, Franz Olah, who was also parliamentary leader of the Socialist group, handed Mr Peter two post office savings books, each with 500,000 Austrian schillings (£32,000), to cover the FPO's campaign debt. One went under the codename "Enzian" (Gentian), while the other was dubbed "Edelweiss".

There was much more to come. Mr Peter has now confirmed. "There were six or seven million [schillings] more, handed over at irregular intervals."

No longer disguised as trade union money, the secret contributions later came directly from Socialist Party coffers. They were accompanied by regular party consultations between the SPO and the FPO aimed at creating enough common ground for an eventual coalition government.

Such a coalition did not come into existence until 1983. By then, Dr Kreisky and Mr Peter were both off the political stage. Mr Peter's exit, in 1978, was triggered by Simon Wiesenthal's allegations against him that he had been a member of a murderous SS brigade. Dr Kreisky was driven to retirement by ill-health in 1981.

The "small coalition" survived only while the FPO was led by the low-key politician Norbert Steger. After the young, charismatic Mr Haider seized the leadership, Dr Vranitzky rejected further collaboration.

In 1987, in the absence of an overall majority, the Socialists reluctantly returned to the "grand coalition" formula with the OVP.

The big question in this election is whether the tables will be turned. If the conservatives win the most votes without an overall majority, will they repeat Dr Kreisky's 1970 manoeuvre, turning to Mr Haider as a silent partner even if they do not dare to form a coalition with him?

Zagreb U-turn holds up deal

Julian Borger in Zagreb

A SMALL peninsular jutting into the Adriatic is preventing one of the last pieces of the Balkan peace puzzle — mutual recognition between Yugoslavia and Croatia — from falling into place.

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia said yesterday that there was "not a formal nor legal nor realistic chance" of his country handing over the Prevlaka peninsular to the rump Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro, despite its offer last month to exchange it for Serb-held highlands above Dubrovnik.

French officials had hoped to cajole Mr Tudjman and the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, into a mutual recognition deal to accompany the Bosnian peace treaty signed in Paris on Thursday, but the talks broke down on the Prevlaka question.

The peace deal placed the hinterland of Dubrovnik under the control of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat Federation. The security of Dubrovnik and its tourist industry was thus guaranteed without Mr Tudjman having to cede Prevlaka.

Yugoslav leaders accused Mr Tudjman of bad faith.

"Our position is clear: full normalisation of relations is possible when the Republic of Croatia fulfils the obligations it voluntarily undertook," said Montenegro's president, Momir Bulatovic.

The Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, announced the end of martial law in areas under his control yesterday, but excluded Serb-held areas of Sarajevo, where tension is high as the time for their transfer to government control approaches.

He said the state of war would be downgraded to "a state of war danger", a possible precursor to demobilising troops and a general demilitarisation.

Bosnian Serb politicians are preparing for a weekend parliamentary session amid signs that Mr Karadzic is losing his grip on power.

The new High Representative for Bosnia, Carl Bildt, appointed at the London Implementation Conference last week to oversee civilian aspects of the peace plan, sent his top political and military aides to Sarajevo yesterday to help convince the Sarajevo Serbs to accept the accord.

As the international focus shifts to rebuilding, the International Monetary Fund said that Bosnia could receive emergency loans as soon as next week, when it is expected to become an IMF member.

Ian Black adds: Britain's contribution to the Nato peace implementation force in Bosnia is to include a company of Gurkhas who will guard a key divisional headquarters, the Army said yesterday. The Nepalese soldiers, equipped with their distinctive curved kukri knives, will be in their first operational role since the Falklands war in 1982.

Australia hunts war criminals

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

A HUNT for war criminals from former Yugoslavia has begun in Australia as evidence mounts that some may have found a haven among the migrant population.

There are also fears that Australian citizens from the large Serb and Croat communities, some of whom went to fight in the war during university holidays, may be implicated in murder, rape and torture.

The International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague has passed on to the Australian federal police the names of 19 suspected war criminals who may have entered the country.

Witnesses from Bosnia have told a joint parliamentary committee that alleged war criminals have been seen in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, one in a suburban shopping centre.

More than 14,000 people from the Balkans have settled in Australia since 1991 and more than half the places in this year's refugee progamme have been filled from the area.

The Australian Democrats have argued unsuccessfully in the senate for a unit to investigate and prosecute suspected war criminals.

They want to tighten the provisions of the International War Crimes Tribunal Act, passed earlier this year, which allows Australian agencies to find and extradite war criminals for trial in The Hague.

The party's law spokesman, Senator Sid Spindler, said: "Not only has Australia been chosen as a favoured destination for nearly 14,000 refugees from the war zone, but hundreds of Australians who left to fight in the civil war are beginning to return home.

"Australia is, therefore, not just becoming a haven for witnesses to atrocities. It is fast becoming a refuge for those who have carried out atrocities."

The federal police's national operations chief, David Schramm, said that while there was no hard evidence war criminals had entered Australia, the police will act "where sufficient information is available to allow a reasonable chance of investigation".

But Australia's ambassador for refugees, Justice Marcus Einfeld, said the law was not strong enough to ensure that war criminals could be punished.

War crimes have been a sensitive issue in Australia since the failure of legislation in the 1980s to bring Nazi war criminals, also mainly from the former Yugoslavia, to justice.

Mark Aarons, the author who showed how the Nazis entered Australia, said he was reliably informed that Balkan war criminals were in the country.

ADVERTISEMENT

THE FACTS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

In recent weeks the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has been conducting a campaign of terror in Sri Lanka for over 12 years, has suffered several major defeats. Domestically its oppressive grip on Jaffna has been broken and the myth of LTTE invincibility has been shattered. Abroad the LTTE's active involvement in the promotion of international terrorism, narcotics trafficking, trade in illicit arms, the smuggling of illegal immigrants and money laundering is being investigated in several western capitals.

In the wake of these defeats, LTTE front organisations have begun to disseminate falsehoods in order to divert attention, arouse sympathy and to raise funds for the depleting war-chests of the LTTE. To deal with some of these false claims and to help clarify the situation, we present the following comments made by respected independent sources and the President of Sri Lanka.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES

"I think international reaction to the LTTE breakdown of the negotiations was explicit and must have given an unmistakable message to the LTTE leadership and to the Tamil community in the north and indeed overseas Tamils who perhaps are a little romantically inclined when it comes to supporting some of the excesses of the LTTE. I think the message should have been very usefully given, that this sort of behaviour must expect to get a very sharp international reaction. They can't expect to have any kind of international support, when they obviously sat on a so potentially viable peace process"

- Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, to the International press in Colombo, 22 May 1995

"Prabhakaran and his colleagues will have to bear the responsiblity for the resulting casualties, especially of the civilians. Though the Sri Lanka army would do well to show restraint, the government cannot afford to yield to the demands for Eelam. In that respect they are fighting a war not only for the integrity of Sri Lanka but to uphold the principle of territorial integrity of all multi-cultural, multi-ethnic nations"

- Editorial in The Kathmandu Post (Nepal), 30 November 1995

INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF THE LTTE

"Mr Prabhakaran has established a rule of terror in the city of Jaffna...many of his own lieutenants have been murdered; Tamils who have criticised him, even mildly or in jest, have been picked up, tortured, and executed; others have been held in dungeons, half-starved, hauled out periodically for a battering by the guards...He (Prabhakaran) has shown a bloodthirstiness in dealing with opponents that has compared with some of the cruellest figures in Asian history, including Pol Pot of Cambodia.."

- New York Times, 28 May 1995

"We condemn the recent brutal massacres of civilians which have taken place, especially those in the North and East of Sri Lanka. These outrages bear all the hallmarks of operations carried out by the LTTE and deserve the condemnation of the entire international community".

- Statement by UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jeremy Hanley, 6 November 1995

CONSCRIPTION OF CHILDREN

"The LTTE recruits boys and girls from the age of 10 upwards. Their dependence on child combatants is increasing rapidly".

Statement to the press by UNICEF Representative in Sri Lanka, Ms Brita Ostberg, 11 December 1995

CRACKDOWN ON THE LTTE'S ACTIVITIES ABROAD

"A suspected leader and Canadian fund-raiser for the terrorist Tamil Tigers has been arrested on terrorist-related charges. The funds were transferred to Sri Lanka for use by the group to purchase weapons and equipment in their fight against the government".

- Toronto Star (Canada), 20 October 1995

"Calls on European Union member states to monitor the LTTE offices operating on the territory of the EU and to ensure that their agents respect the law and take no part in terrorist or intimidatory activities".

- from Resolution adopted unanimously by the European Parliament on 16 November 1995

DISPLACEMENT OF CIVILIANS FROM JAFFNA

"Jaffna is a ghost town. Most of the 250,000 inhabitants have left. Some have doubtless gone in fear of the advancing army. But the majority were ordered out by the Tigers"

- The Economist (UK), 18 November 1995

"Tamil refugees reaching government controlled areas have confirmed earlier government assertions that the rebels forced them at gun point from their homes in Jaffna."

- New York Times, 6 December 1995

PROVISION OF FOOD AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO THE DISPLACED

"Sri Lanka presents the unusual situation of a central government providing relief aid to persons under control of opposition groups. In a world replete with examples of Governments and rebel groups using food as a weapon against civilians the situation in Sri Lanka is one that deserves closer attention if not more publicity as an important precedence".

- Dr Francis Deng, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on internally displaced persons in his 1994 report to the UN Commission on Human Rights

"The Government (Sri Lanka) appears to have done a commendable job feeding and sheltering them (the internally displaced), avoiding what would become a human catastrophe"

- Times (London), 4 December 1995

THE UN REACTION TO THE SRI LANKAN SITUATION

"Let me first say very firmly that the Secretary-General has never questioned what the Sri Lanka Government had been, or was doing, on the humanitarian front. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs continued to follow the situation in Sri Lanka very closely and was maintaining contact with the Sri Lankan authorities regarding the humanitarian needs in that country. The Government had assured that it was able and willing to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance for the affected populations within the conflict areas. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was in the area, playing a key role in ensuring humanitarian assistance. The United Nations resident coordinator, who headed the local emergency task force, was in contact with the newly designated focal point for relief assistance established by the Government. The United Nations was following the situation".

- Spokesman of the UN Secretary-General, 9 November 1995

THE CONDUCT OF THE SECURITY FORCES IN THE RECENT OPERATIONS

"Our young men have not only braved all the dangers in the defence of their motherland and shed their blood but they have also acted as civilised, well disciplined, religious human beings and not in the fashion of conquering armies looting houses, stealing goods, raping the defenceless and killing innocent civilians".

- Rt. Rev Dr Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Archbishop of Colombo, in a message on 3 December 1995

HUMAN RIGHTS

"The Foreign Minister and I will be talking about, among other things, the great progress they've made in Sri Lanka in the field of human rights, which you can see from our human rights report this year, is one of the happy stories."

- US Secretary of State Warren Christopher welcoming Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at the State Department, 2 February 1995

"The Commission condemns abuses of human rights by the LTTE and strongly urges it to desist from such acts...The Commission expresses its support for the peace process initiated by the President of Sri Lanka and strongly urges the LTTE to respond positively and speedily to the steps taken by the Government and to take all necessary steps towards the achievement of a durable political solution"

- Chairman, UN Commission on Human Rights (Geneva), 7 March 1995

"Commends the Sri Lankan people and the Government of Sri Lanka for the significant improvements in Sri Lanka in the area of human rights...applauds the commitment to democracy demonstrated by the Sri Lankan people, in defiance of brutal acts of wanton terrorism...calls on the LTTE to desist in its resort to arms, and to return to the negotiating table"

- from the Resolution passed by the US House of Representatives on 18 September 1995

TOWARDS A LASTING PEACE IN SRI LANKA

"The unveiling of the devolution proposals makes clear the effort of the Sri Lankan Government to distinguish between the obligation to respond sincerely to the long standing problems of the Tamil minority and the necessity to deal sharply with the LTTE's dangerous and fascist brand of terrorism. Sri Lanka's Government has shown a pioneering and courageous approach to conflict resolution which should serve as a model for the entire South Asian region".

- Editorial in The Hindu (India), 4 August 1995

"We transformed our peace programme into a battle for peace only in order to defeat attacks against peace. At this moment of our victory let us not crow over military victories. I request my people of the Sinhala community today to continue steadfastly to show the same patience and humaneness you have so well demonstrated in the face of all provocation by extremists on both sides of the divide. I ask my people belonging to the Tamil community to continue to recognise that our government is ready to implement programmes to resolve your problems. Although some of you may have agreed to accept the authority of a terrorist regime as you may have had no alternative previously, today you have been offered the supreme opportunity to free yourself from the bondage of intolerance and terror perpetrated by the extremists on both sides. You do not need to continue any more the sacrifices you made with the blood and lives of your children.....I invite all those who left Jaffna to return to their homes and lands and live normal lives in peace and security. My government undertakes to ensure you that. I invite all members of the LTTE to lay down arms and renounce violence. The government will offer you an amnesty and your safety."

- Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on 6 December 1995 in an address to the nation after the liberation of Jaffna

The above comments make it clear that it is the LTTE and its sympathisers who continue to be the obstacle to peace in Sri Lanka. No right thinking person should therefore make any contribution to LTTE front organisations which describe themselves as rehabilitation bodies or Tamil foundations. Those interested in making financial contributions to the humanitarian effort to help displaced persons in the north of Sri Lanka should send such contributions to internationally recognised and respected organisations - the ICRC, OXFAM, Save the Children Fund, UNHCR amongst others - who are presently assisting the government of Sri Lanka in its humanitarian relief programme.

SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY
Suite 22, Unit 239, Elephant & Castle Centre, London SE1 6TE

هكذا من الاصل

Don't allow the 'forces of the past' to return to power, pleads the recuperating president. DAVID HEARST reports

Yeltsin haunted by ghost of Lenin

'You must not allow the country to be returned to the times when people were told how to dress, how to wear their hair and which songs to sing'
Yeltsin

'His soul is aching about how the election race is going'
Naina Yeltsin

'Don't be afraid of generals going to elections. Be afraid of the generals who don't go to elections'
Lebed

'While you [Westerners] were chewing gum and eating Snickers bars, we were conquering space'
Zhirinovsky

'Jesus Christ was the first communist'
Zyuganov

RUSSIANS go to the polls tomorrow with one message ringing in their ears. It's the message of television documentaries about Stalin's dirtiest deeds. It's the message of newspaper articles about poets, victims of repression. Last night President Boris Yeltsin all but said it himself: "Don't vote Communist."

Mr Yeltsin's bloodcurdling warning surprised many. He even talked of a civil war if the Communists began expropriating property that had been privatised. They have insisted they have no plans to do so.

Until last night, the president had heeded his advisers who counselled him to distance himself from the fray.

By identifying the likely winners so clearly as the enemy, Mr Yeltsin, still in Barvikha sanatorium recovering from his second heart attack, has broken cover. He has once again surrendered to his pugilist, some would say Bolshevik, political instincts — to blacken the name of his opponents and raise the political temperature.

Mr Yeltsin's intervention is a high risk strategy for two reasons. The Duma itself is weak. Even if it were dominated by a coalition of Gennady Zyuganov's Communists and Alexander Lebed's nationalists, Mr Yeltsin's worst fear, it would be unable to force cabinet changes in the government. Only the president has that power.

This election is a forerunner to the presidential poll, only six months away. Tomorrow's vote will be a presidential primary.

Mr Yeltsin now appears to have given up the option of responding to the popular will expressed tomorrow. As leader of Russia rather than of any one party, he could have offered deals to the successful parties. Only two months ago he called Gen Lebed's running mate, Yuri Skokov, a "very clever man". In his speech last night he pushed him back into the ranks of the "instransigent" opposition. It was fighting talk.

The second risk the president is taking is with the Russian electorate. It has seen a decade of reform — and of political turmoil and economic decline. Russia is fighting an unpopular war in Chechenia. Presidential and prime ministerial promises that life will be easier next year ring hollow.

In times of crisis, Mr Yeltsin has challenged his opponents with referendums and elections. In the last big clash, the country did not support the storming of the White House, the home of the Supreme Soviet, but nor did it rush to its defence.

Mr Yelstin may blacken the name of his new parliament, but this time it is one elected under his rules, his constitution. The tactic of "appealing to the people" has been exhausted.

The high vote that the Communists are expected to get is a call for a change of leadership. Their supporters want leaders who will strengthen the state, clamp down on corruption and the mafia, protect citizens at home and abroad, and protect the weak.

By saying that Communists threaten peace, reform and stability, Mr Yeltsin is stretching credulity.

Nor will the Communist vote be cast in a mood of political passion. Communists will be successful, not because they have appealed to the past but because they oppose the present. Mr Yeltsin's message risks pushing more voters into their hands.

The two men who have run the most effective campaigns have both done so by aiming their shots at the Kremlin itself. Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party, has been polite and kind to everyone he was expected to clash with. In television debates, he nods wisely, he agrees, he shakes their hands, he even offers pacts.

Mr Zyuganov has visited 79 of the 89 regions and republics constituting the Russian Federation. From nothing four years ago, he has built up a truly national party machine, with an estimated membership of 500,000. If the Communists get more than 20 per cent of vote, they will achieve their strategic aim of being the "vanguard" opposition party, and in a strong position to launch their next assault on the presidency.

Grigory Yavlinski, the liberal economist who heads Yabloko, has also gained in national recognition. His party's credentials as an underdog were helped along by the Central Electoral Commission, who ruled Yabloko out of the race on a registration technicality, only to reverse the decision by popular demand. Mr Yavlinski has tapped popular as well as middle class discontent, accuses the government of incompetence, and seeks more far-reaching reforms.

The highest-profile and most expensive campaign has been conducted by Viktor Chernomyrdin. The campaign of Our Home is Russia has been entirely centred on the prime minister himself. Television footage of fist fights in the Duma has been contrasted with pictures of him looking admiringly at a steelworks, or an aeroplane. If he'd been standing by an oil pipeline, it would have been a truer picture. His attempt to represent industry is blunted by the fact that he represents only one part of it.

The surprise of the campaign has been the weak showing of Alexander Lebed, the army general who was catapulted into the forefront of politics by the media in April. His campaign may have started too early. Gen Lebed's appearances have been few, and he has only recently resumed wearing his military uniform for interviews. He should never have taken it off.

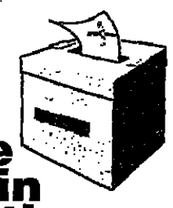
The extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who caused a sensation in the 1993 election by winning nearly 23 per cent of the vote, has campaigned actively and should still get about 8 per cent.

He closed his campaign yesterday with a xenophobic tirade blaming the West for all Russia's problems. "Where are our Grand Duchies of Finland and Warsaw, where are our Alaska and California, handed to the Americans under a lease which expired in the 1960s?" The US, he declared, was "a country of emigrants and bandits".

He described President Yeltsin as a "semi-corpse" who was being killed by his doctors, reformist Yegor Gaidar as looking pasty-faced from eating too much porridge and Gen Lebed as "a *Feldwebel* [German for corporal] in general's uniform".

On Thursday the presidential administration declared that Lenin's personal effects and his historic library and office, now at his last dacha, Gorki, will never be returned to the Kremlin. It was one of many statements designed to exorcise from the Kremlin the communist spectre. But they can't stop Lenin's ghost walking freely around the country.

Martin Woollacott, page 14



The main parties

These are the parties expected to poll the most votes in Sunday's election.

Communist Party of the Russian Federation
- **Leader:** Gennady Zyuganov.
- **Policies:** Strong state, protectionism of state industry, voluntary reintegration of USSR.

Congress of Russian Communities
- **Leaders:** Yuri Skokov and Alexander Lebed.
- **Policies:** Moderate nationalist, support for army.

The Agrarian Party of Russia
- **Leader:** Mikhail Lapshin
- **Policies:** Farm subsidies, heavy protectionism.

Yabloko
- **Leader:** Grigori Yavlinski
- **Policies:** Liberal market reform but on a social base.

Our Home is Russia
- **Leader:** Viktor Chernomyrdin
- **Policies:** Stability and remaining in power.

Women of Russia
- **Leader:** Alevtina Fedulova
- **Policies:** Welfare state, moderation.

Trade Unions and Industrialists of Russia
The Labour Union
- **Leader:** Vladimir Sherbakov
- **Policies:** Social partnership.

Power to the People
- **Leader:** Nikolai Ryzhkov
- **Policies:** Moderate reform, social programmes, strong state.

Liberal Democratic Party
- **Leader:** Vladimir Zhirinovsky
- **Policies:** Extreme nationalism.

Spectre of communism ... Election officials put the finishing touches to a Moscow polling station — a Russian flag and a statue of Lenin PHOTOGRAPH: SERGEY CHIRIKOV

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EU move to phase out veal crates

Julie Wolf in Brussels and Alex Bellos

VEAL crates may be phased out in Europe over the next 13 years under a controversial proposal by the EU's farm commissioner.

The move follows a report by European veterinary experts which strongly criticises some countries' methods of producing veal.

Rearing calves in small crates provoked widespread demonstrations in Britain this year, and animal welfare groups are also trying to ban the trade through the European Court.

The farm commissioner, Franz Fischler, will present the report to farm ministers on Monday and outline his plans for a progressive ban. The report calls veal crates inhumane. "Every calf should be able to groom itself properly, turn around, stand up and lie down normally."

Mr Fischler's wants to ban crates in new or renovated farm buildings from 1998 and farmers would have until 2008 to eliminate all existing crates. The proposals will be presented to the full commission next month.

Animal rights campaigners are likely to criticise the slow speed of the phasing out. The British Government also is expected to push for a quicker timetable.

Britain and several other EU countries have already banned veal crates, but they are still commonly used in France, Italy, and the Netherlands. Hundreds of thousands of calves are exported from Britain to the Continent to be reared in crates, which was the focus of the protests at southern English ports this year.

Commission sources defended the gradual approach, saying it reflected the political reality that many EU member states would oppose an immediate ban. The commission proposed a ban six years ago, but that was rejected by EU governments.

Whereas a ban on veal crates must be approved by EU ministers, the commission itself can order changes in dietary rules for animals.

The commission report was produced earlier than planned after Britain and several northern European states demanded quicker action. EU countries are split over animal welfare, which is not considered a big priority in southern European countries.

Meanwhile, the British Government and the commission are at odds over the commission decision to delay a ban on imports of fur from animals caught in leghold traps. The Environment Secretary, John Gummer, is expected to condemn the commission's stance at a meeting of EU environment ministers on Monday.

At the request of the trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, the commission decided on a one-year delay to give the EU time to negotiate an agreement with the US, Canada, and Russia.

● Animal welfare campaigners yesterday won the right to mount a legal challenge to what they say is the failure of government inspectors to enforce regulations against the shipping of livestock during bad weather.

A High Court judge granted The Protesters — a pressure group led by the TV scriptwriter, Carla Lane, and the RSPCA council member, Celia Hammond — leave to seek a judicial review.

Preventive medicine . . . A pupil at Shotton Hall School in Peterlee prepares to be vaccinated against meningitis PHOTOGRAPH: CARL RUTHERFORD

Meningitis confirmed as pupils get jabs

Chris Mihill
Medical Correspondent

PUPILS and teachers at Shotton Hall Comprehensive School in Peterlee, County Durham, where there have been nine suspected meningitis cases, two of them since confirmed, began a programme of vaccination against the C strain of the disease yesterday.

All 1,300 pupils and staff have been offered vaccination and given antiobiotics. One of the confirmed cases was said to be poorly but stable, and the other was improving. A five-month-old baby from Weymouth, Dorset, died of the disease yesterday.

Vaccines against C have only a relatively short period of effectiveness and are not suitable for young children.

The C strain accounts for about a quarter of meningitis cases in Britain. There is no vaccine available for the more common, and more deadly, B strain.

Public health officials said yesterday the number of infections and deaths was normal for the time of year and lower than some recent years.

Figures from the Public Health Laboratory Service show that confirmed cases of meningococcal disease, covering both meningitis and septicaemia, stood at 1,151 in England and Wales up to December 2.

The meningococcal bacteria are responsible for two forms of illness — meningitis, in which the lining of the brain is inflamed, and blood poisoning. People sometimes have both.

Up to the same period in 1994 there were 1,037 cases; 1,164 in 1993, 1,194 in 1992, 1,305 in 1991 and 1,397 in 1990.

There were 136 deaths up until November 18. There were 148 for the same period in 1994, 173 in 1993, 162 in 1992, 170 in 1991 and 169 in 1990.

The laboratory service said that on average there were about three deaths a week, but cases were concentrated in the winter months.

Poor miss out on £3bn

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE POOR fail to claim up to £3 billion in means tested state benefits, official figures for 1993-94 released yesterday show.

More than 2 million, nearly a third of those entitled, fail to claim council tax benefit.

It is the first time that the Department of Social Security has been able to release figures for take up of council tax benefit which replaced poll tax benefit.

The figures show that £23.6 billion was claimed in income related, or means tested, benefit in 1993-94, but between £1.56 and £3.18 billion was unclaimed.

The average take-up for council tax benefit was between 71 and 80 per cent for those entitled to claim.

Potential beneficiaries were forgoing £5.54 a week on average, more than £250 a year.

Among owner occupiers the take-up was between 57 and 66 per cent. The total amount unclaimed was between £390 and £630 million with between 1.34 and 2.17 million people not taking up their entitlement.

The numbers not claiming housing benefit remaining largely unchanged at between 200,000 and 610,000 — a saving to the Treasury of between £230 and £690 million.

In a slight increase, family credit, a tax free benefit for low paid workers with children, was being claimed by about 71 per cent of those entitled to do so with take-up much higher among single people at 86 per cent. About 180,000 people were not claiming family credit saving the Treasury £230 million. The average weekly sum involved was £24.

Between 79 per cent and 88 per cent claimed their entitlement to Income Support, worth an average of £47.90 to last year's 5 million recipients, suggesting between 720,000 and 1.39 million were failing to take up their rights for the benefit which is paid only to those not in work. Take up was highest amongst single parents and lowest amongst pensioners where between 65 per cent and 73 per cent were failing to claim. The average sum not being claimed was £22.85 a week.

The estimates do not cover those in residential care or the self-employed.

Archbishop changes tune in Nigerian charm offensive

David Pallister

THE isolated Nigerian junta, whose members have been barred from Britain, is stepping up its public relations efforts.

A cast of unofficial intermediaries is passing through London to argue the case against wider sanctions as the eight-member Commonwealth ministerial action group prepares to meet in London next Wednesday, to decide what further pressure to place on the regime. South Africa wants an oil embargo.

The ban prevents civilian and military members of the regime continuing to send their children to private English schools.

One of the more bizarre emissaries turned up for his packed press conference in a white stretch limo. Archbishop Benson Idahosa, founder of the Church of God Mission International Inc, had claimed earlier to be on a personal mission from the junta leader, General Abacha, who now believed that the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his eight Ogoni colleagues last month was "inept and unjust."

Saying that sanctions would only harm the people, the Most Reverend Idahosa's press release also intimated that the general would accelerate his three-year plan for a return to democracy.

Sitting next to his host, Bishop Michael Reid, of the Pentecostal Church of Brentwood, Essex, the archbishop delivered his message. The bald point was: "To make progress the Commonwealth nations should immediately plan to restore Nigeria's membership."

When Nigerian journalists and several churchmen accused him of misleading them the archbishop, who has called himself a friend of General Abacha, was nonplussed: "I do not represent the government of Nigeria. I am not here to speak for General Abacha. He has not paid me a penny, by the grace of God."

He explained that the earlier press releases had been "drafts" and were now erroneous. "I am now rectifying them."

In Knightsbridge, selected journalists were being promised a more private briefing from a confidant of the regime.

Akubar Baguda, a businessman in the construction industry, was said to have spoken in Washington to officials at the State Department and the National Security Council. His oblique message was to have been that General Abacha was a decent man surrounded by military hardliners. But when news of his briefing leaked to a wider media audience, the conference was cancelled.

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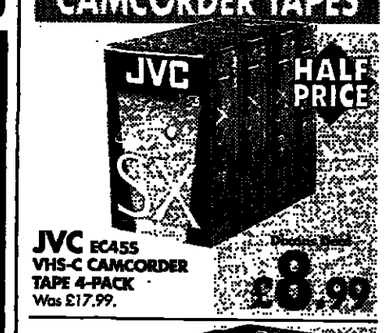

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هكذا من الاصل

'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.'
Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

'Daddy'll put up the money for your movie,' she remarked casually one day. 'If I ask him, that is.'
'What the hell are you waiting for?' he yelled.
'A little thing called marriage,' she replied innocently.
Marriage. The very word scared him.
Jackie Collins, Hollywood Wives

Off the shelf . . . Terry Pratchett's novels are among those which find favour with youngsters for leisure reading — PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

How children graduate to Hollywood Wives

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

TEENAGERS shun Jane Austen in favour of Jackie Collins and horror stories and teachers are doing little to introduce them to the classics, according to a survey of reading in schools.

Only 4 per cent of English classes of pupils aged 16 read pre-1900 fiction, although nearly a quarter study Shakespeare, the Government's curriculum advisers have discovered.

When it comes to individual choice, children read Gulliver's Travels in primary school but Jackie Collins's Hollywood Wives or Terry Pratchett's rather different fantasies by the time they are aged 16.

The appearance of Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway among the books teenagers read on their own is the other side of the coin and confirms the survey's finding that children read an impressive range of modern fiction.

But the overwhelming concentration on modern fiction means that poetry, the classics and work from other cultures is neglected.

The study, carried out in 84 schools during a week in March, found that children's reading is much wider at age seven, and narrows progressively until it is totally geared to examinations by age 16.

But the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority says texts from other cultures, classic poetry and older fiction are read comparatively rarely.

Nick Tate, the authority's chief executive, yesterday called on teachers to redress the balance. "A balance of reading is essential and it is perfectly reasonable to concentrate more on contemporary than earlier literature. However, the evidence of this survey suggests that we have shifted too far," Mr Tate said.

The introduction of the revised national curriculum, with its controversial reading list of recommended authors, is already having an impact. "It should increase the amount of classic and high quality books that children read," said Mr Tate.

The report, One Week in March: a survey of the literature children read, was designed to provide a snapshot before the introduction of the revised national curriculum order for English.

The imposition of a reading list has been strongly criticised by many English teachers.

The report says it is surprising that younger readers are not being introduced to the wide range of modern poetry and traditional stories available. By the time children reach secondary school, their reading has little in common with books studied in class and they embark on romance and horror.

While a few higher-ability secondary pupils read adult writers such as Joanna Trollope, P. D. James, Clive James and Terry Pratchett, the vast majority read series titles such as Sweet Valley High, Babysitter Club and Point Horror. Stephen King, Danielle Steele and Virginia Andrews are also popular.

Black Beauty, Gone With the Wind, William Golding's Lord of the Flies and JD Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye apparently all retain a following.

Film and television tie-ins, like Nightmare Before Christmas and Jurassic Park, make a difference to the books chosen at all ages. Among those aged seven to eight, Roald Dahl is by far the favourite, followed by Dick King Smith and Enid Blyton. Dahl retains his hold up to the age of 13.

Children's choice: What they read in their own time

Year 6 (age 10-11)

Higher Ability
- ☐ The Demon Headmaster, by Gillian Cross.
- ☐ Carrie's War, by Nina Bawden.
- ☐ Conrad's War, by Andrew Davies.
- ☐ Sense Poems (3), by members of class.
- ☐ Computer Stimulation, Pedro.

Middle Ability
- ☐ Mortimer and the Sword Excalibur, by Joan Aiken.
- ☐ Carrie's War, by Nina Bawden.
- ☐ Gulliver's Travels, by Jonathan Swift.
- ☐ Sense Poems (2), by members of class.

Lower Ability
- ☐ Monty the Dog Who Wears Glasses, by Colin West.
- ☐ Carrie's War, by Nina Bawden.
- ☐ Bill Buckets, by Diana Webb.

Year 8 (age 12-13)
Higher Ability
- ☐ The Ghost Messengers, by Robert Swindells.
- ☐ Nailing the Shadow, by Roger McGough.
- ☐ Alice Through the Looking Glass, by Lewis Carroll.
- ☐ Shakespeare — the Animated Tales, by Leon Garfield.
- ☐ My Family & Other Animals, by Gerald Durrell.

Middle Ability
- ☐ The Mouse & His Child, by Russel Hoban.
- ☐ True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi.
- ☐ Warhammer: Zarog, a fantasy role play book.
- ☐ Voyage of the Dawn Treader, by C. S. Lewis.
- ☐ 13 Point Horror Stories.

Lower Ability
- ☐ The Animated Macbeth, by Leon Garfield.
- ☐ Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles, by B. B. Hiller.
- ☐ Point Horror Collection — 5 titles in 1.
- ☐ Buddy's Song, by Nigel Hinton.
- ☐ Vampire Diaries, by L. J. Smith.

Year 11 (age 15-16)
Higher Ability
- ☐ Mereta Dragon — Lady of Pern, by Anne Macaffery.
- ☐ Lord of the Rings, by J. R. R. Tolkein.
- ☐ Mrs Dalloway, by Virginia Woolf.
- ☐ I Robot, by Isaac Asimov.

Middle Ability
- ☐ The Catcher in the Rye, by J. D. Salinger.
- ☐ Hollywood Wives, by Jackie Collins.
- ☐ Stephen King short stories.
- ☐ Alive; by Piers Paul Reid.
- ☐ Equal Rites, by Terry Pratchett.

Lower Ability
- ☐ Lord of the Flies, by William Golding.
- ☐ The Black Velvet Gown, by Catherine Cookson.
- ☐ Sons and Lovers, by D. H. Lawrence.
- ☐ Oxford Book of Short Stories.
- ☐ The Bachman books, by Stephen King.

Yeltsin poll warning of 'civil war'

David Hearst in Moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin last night launched an astonishing attack on the Communist Party, which he is likely to have to work with after tomorrow's parliamentary election, saying its nationalisation policies and attempts to restore the Soviet Union could lead to "blood" and "civil war".

He urged the young and the undecided to vote, lacing his appeal with lurid warnings about life under a communist-led parliament. "The fate of Russia is in your hands," he said. "You should not allow the forces of the past to come to power again."

With prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's party, Our Home is Russia, trailing badly in the polls, Mr Yeltsin's only hope is for the election of a large number of independent deputies who would rob the communists and the nationalists of the two-thirds majority they need to change the constitution.

Lashing out at the communists and the nationalists, he said their ideas to restore the former Soviet Union, were "fraught with the terrible fires of civil war".

But his claim to be the guarantor of peace and stability took a knock as Russian forces in the breakaway republic of Chechenia received their bloodiest setback in a year of fighting. Rebel forces temporarily seized Gudermes, the republic's second largest city, and partially occupied Urus-Martan, south of Grozny. It was part of a campaign by supporters of the former president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, to disrupt elections for a Chechen leader.

Last night General Anatoli Kulikov, the Russian interior minister, said Gudermes had been retaken. But fighting was still reported in Urus-Martan. First reports put Russian casualties at 22 dead, 38 missing and 41 injured, the heaviest loss sustained in any one incident since the storming of Grozny a year ago.

Mr Yeltsin made no reference to the disastrous military campaign in Chechenia, which has turned large parts of the military against the government and been responsible for the rise in the nationalist vote. He went on the attack, openly at one point, referring to the popular former commander of the 14th Army in Trans-Dnestr, General Alexander Lebed.

"The economy had never worked well and couldn't work on orders. It would never be put on its feet by a general's order. This is a tragic mistake," Mr Yeltsin said.

Looking confident, and healthy after his six-week stay in a sanatorium following a heart attack, Mr Yeltsin presented a lurid picture of the political alternatives facing Russia's 104 million eligible voters.

"The most dangerous thing is that representatives of some parties want to return the country to the past," the president warned. "This is a tragic mistake."

Speaking as if his own campaign for the presidential polls next June had already started, Mr Yeltsin added: "It so happened that the president is responsible for everything. And you, esteemed compatriots, judge me harshly, sometime mercilessly. But it is up to you to make a decision on December 17 . . . The fate of Russia is in your hands."

No one had expected Mr Yeltsin to come out so clearly against the expected winners of Sunday's poll. The address was a political gamble frought with dangers for the president. Many observers were surprised by Mr Yeltsin's overt reference to Mr Chernomyrdin's party, not least because it is trailing at between eight to 12 per cent in the opinion polls.

Mr Yeltsin called on voters to back those parties which could secure "stability and accord in our common home — Russia". These are the slogans of Mr Chernomyrdin's party, Our Home is Russia.

Focus, page 5

Branson sues US firm for libel

Stakes rise in battle of words as writs are served on lottery giant

Edward Pilkington

THE millionaire entrepreneur, Richard Branson, yesterday followed the old adage that the best form of defence is attack when he issued a libel writ against the lottery giant GTECH, which he has accused of attempted bribery.

Writs for defamation were issued in the High Court and served on the Rhode Island-based company and its employee Robert Rendine over their claims that Mr Branson was lying about the alleged attempted bribe. Mr Rendine, who flew in from America on Tuesday to rebut the allegations, accused Mr Branson of waging an "evil smear" campaign.

Further writs are expected to be issued soon against Guy Snowden, the GTECH executive accused by Mr Branson of attempting to bribe him to pull out of the race to run the National Lottery. Mr Snowden has denied any impropriety.

Mr Branson said he had taken the unusual step of issuing writs given GTECH's "attack upon my integrity and the importance of the issues". He has employed the top libel lawyer, George Carman QC, and is said to be determined to take the case to court to have the alleged scandal aired in public.

The move is the latest attack by the head of Virgin on the National Lottery operators, Camelot, in which GTECH has a 22 per cent stake. Mr Branson has consistently argued the lottery should be run on non-profit making lines and has criticised the company for earning about £1 million a week.

Mr Branson told BBC 1's Panorama on Monday night that Mr Snowden had visited his west London home in September 1993 and allegedly said to him: "I don't know how to phrase this, Richard — there's always a bottom line. In what way can we help you, Richard?"

On Tuesday Mr Branson challenged GTECH to sue him so the matter could be cleared up in court. When no writs were forthcoming, he started his own libel proceedings.

It promises to be a case of high drama. In his early days Mr Branson made a name for himself as a David taking on the Goliaths of the commercial record business. This case is more accurately described as Goliath versus Goliath. Virgin and GTECH are evenly matched, with the former commanding worldwide profits of about £120 million a year and the latter about £150 million.

Both are formidable fighters. GTECH, which last night said it would defend itself "vigorously", has a reputation in America for being an aggressive legal opponent, having successfully fought off several actions.

Virgin, although it claims to be one of the least litigious companies in Britain, is also tenacious in its pursuit of justice. In January 1993 it won what was then the largest libel settlement in UK legal history when British Airways agreed to pay £610,000 in damages over its "dirty tricks" campaign.

Des Wilson, who worked with Mr Branson on his lottery bid, said the Virgin boss would be determined in pursuing the case as he believed he was right. "But I would not necessarily have advised him to take this action as he has already made his point."

The issuing of writs ups the stakes in the battle of words between Virgin and GTECH. If the case goes to court and Mr Branson loses, his reputation for honesty and integrity — a crucial component of the Virgin label — would be severely dented.

If GTECH were to lose, that could jeopardise Camelot's control over the lottery. Under the Lotteries Act, the licence can be revoked if anyone involved in managing the game can be shown not to be "a fit or proper person".

He couldn't read or write, so he raised pigeons as a way of giving expression to his inarticulate dreams. He was small, and he lisped, and the other kids called him "Fairy Boy" until one day somebody killed one of his pigeons and he fought back and discovered his vocation. By the time he was 21 he had become the richest sportsman on earth.
Richard Williams on Mike Tyson
Outlook front

How do you celebrate the holidays? We hope you'll drop us a line and tell us. Write to the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA.

ALL OF US HERE AT JACK DANIEL DISTILLERY in Lynchburg, Tennessee hope you're getting your Christmas decorations put up in plenty of time. (From the look of things, our head ricker Jack Bateman is on his way from the sawmill with a freshly-cut pine wreath.) And we hope that no matter where in the world you're from, your holidays will be filled with family, friends and all the other blessings of the season.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Uttoxeter

12.00 Mt Rundle
12.30 Serious
1.00 High Low
1.30 GENTLEMAN SID (nap)
2.35 Golden Arrow
3.35 Potter's Gale

Racing

Young Hustler looks the Better bet for a double

Ron Cox

YOUNG HUSTLER, pulled out of last month's Hennessy Gold Cup when the ground turned heavy, can give the Newbury principals, Couldnt Be Better and Rough Quest, plenty to think about with conditions in his favour at Ascot today.

He seeks to repeat his 1993 *success in the Betterware* Cup Handicap Chase, a race in which the trainer/jockey combination of Nigel Twiston-Davies and Carl Llewellyn also struck with Captain Dibble the previous year.

One Man, another late withdrawal from the Hennessy, was as fresh as paint when he reappeared at Haydock last week. It is doubtful whether Young Hustler will match the grey's round of jumping, but the top weight rarely fails in that department.

He skipped over the Grand National fences when giving lumps of weight all round in the Crowther Homes Becher Chase last month, having faced an impossible task against Barton Bank (received 8lb) first time out at Wetherby.

Young Hustler was made to pay for his consistency by the handicapper last season, when he finished around 13 lengths last of five finishers behind the ill-fated Raymylette in the Betterware Cup.

This time, though, he races off an 11lb lower mark — the same as at Aintree last time out and just 2lb higher than two seasons ago when won today's race by six lengths.

The Hennessy has been the *best guide to this Ascot prize* over the years, and Rough Quest would have been the choice but for a muscle problem he suffered earlier this week.

Terry Casey, his trainer, is confident Rough Quest has made a full recovery but there remains a nagging doubt that the problem could re-surface during the course of a competitive race such as this.

Best when produced for a late challenge, Rough Quest was in front from the 10th fence in the Hennessy and became a sitting duck for Couldnt Be Better, who sailed past him at the final fence and won by 14 lengths. A 9lb turnround in favour of Rough Quest, different tactics and different ground will bring the two a lot closer together.

Unguided Missile is potentially well handicapped, and if Richard Dunwoody can get him jumping he will be a danger to all. But he is just out of the novice stage and against these experienced chasers the Greystoke raider might be found wanting.

Yorkshire Gale, under another dynamic ride from Tony McCoy, won from out of the handicap at Cheltenham last week. He needs to improve *again*, though, and in the past has run well when fresh only to disappoint next time.

Young Hustler (1.55) looks right back to his best. He seems most effective when conceding weight to inferior rivals and will expose any weakness in Rough Quest.

On a card full of interest, Martin Pipe can land the Long Walk Hurdle for the second time in four years when Sweet Glow (1.20) bids to emulate Vagog.

The 1992 winner had run well under a big weight in a *Cheltenham handicap the* previous week and Pipe has taken the same route with Sweet Glow, who finished sixth behind Better Times Ahead eight days ago after looking dangerous between

Pipe ... Sweet chance

the last two flights. Both on the Flat and over hurdles, Sweet Glow has shown his best form at Ascot in recent seasons. He is fully effective on fast ground whereas the likes of Putty Road and Island Jewel would prefer some cut.

Call Equiname (12.50), *much sharper since he has* been fitted with blinkers, is favoured by the conditions of the Mitie Group Kennel Gate Hurdle and is preferred to the promising Just 'N Ace.

Mysilv would be giving weight all round if the Knights Royal Hurdle were a handicap and at her best should win. But Charles Egerton, her trainer, has gone *over* three weeks without a winner and it might be worth opposing Mysilv with the useful American filly Strawberry Angel (3.00).

At Uttoxeter, look out for Gentleman Sid (1.30). An improved staying handicapper on the Flat this year, he could be thrown in at the weights here on what is basically a plater's mark.

Leahy takes a tumble and five-day riding ban

DENNIS LEAHY was banned five days (Dec 26-30) at Hereford yesterday for irresponsible riding on River Leven in the Caraway Handicap Chase.

He was judged to have interfered with the eventual winner, Dawn Chance, on the run to the second-last fence where his mount fell.

"I think the decision is diabolical," fumed Leahy. "I can't say I did anything wrong as the horse was jumping left and I've come back over to the rail where I've been for most of the race. Even Anthony Tory, who rode the winner, thinks it's a bad decision."

The Jockey Club's Disciplinary Committee are to hold inquiries into two *dope tests*. Both *Dancing* Dove, second to Chadwick's Ginger at Carlisle on October 6, and High Five, tailed-off last behind Unchanged at Folkestone on September 7, tested positive.

Dancing Dove was found to have isoxsuprine in its urine, while clenbuterol was found in High Five's urine.

Catterick card

12.25 Brancher
12.55 Crofton Lake
1.25 Livio
1.55 Newhall Prince
2.25 Master Ofthe House
2.55 Twin States
3.25 China King

1.55 ST PETERS HANDICAP CHASE 2m £3,493

1	21/F525- JUST FRANKIE (330) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 11-11-11	G Lee (3)
2	21-1P03 MILS MIJ (23) (D) T Cuthbert 10-11-9	J Callaghan
3	4045-11 STRONG APPROACH (23) (C) (D) J Charlton 10-11-5	B Storey
4	03-2112 NEWHALL PRINCE (11) (D) (BF) A Streeter 7-10-1	A S Smith
5	335-233 CIRCULATION (7) (D) D McCain 9-10-0	D Walsh (5)

TOP FORM TIPS: Mils Mij 8, Newhall Prince 7

• Blinkered for the first time: ASCOT 12.50 Lalindi; 1.55 Sibton Abbey. CATTERICK 12.55 Full Shilling. HAYDOCK 12.10 Genuine Leader; 1.40 Squire York.

Haydock runners and riders

12.10 Domappel (nb)
12.40 Caddy's First
1.10 Northern Squire
1.40 Albemine
2.10 High Padre
2.40 Simply Dashing
3.10 King Lucifer
3.40 Martin De Porres

Ascot card with form

BETTING: 10-11 Mysilv, 7-2 Strawberry Angel, 5-1 Kissair, 6-1 Pridwell, 14-1 Kadastrof, 25-1 Shoofk, 66-1 Britannia Mills, Chiappucci — 8 runners

FORM GUIDE - KISSAIR: Successful in this year's Triumph Hurdle, needed race on reappearance when every chance 2 out, btn when mistake last, 3rd of 7, btn 20l to Kilcone Abbot (Newbury 2m, Hvy).
KADASTROF: Set fast pace until weakened quickly 2 out, last of 7, btn 25l to Padre Mio (Newcastle 2m, Gd).
MYSILV: Simple task on reappearance, jumped well, made all, won unchallenged by 7l from Hi-Handsome (Cheltenham 2m, Gd)
PRIDWELL: Always prominent, led 2 out, strongly ridden and caught close home, 2nd of 7, btn hd by Home Counties (Haydock 2m, Gd).
STRAWBERRY ANGEL: American filly, ran well on British debut when in touch until outpaced 3 out, ran on again flat, 3rd, btn 7l by Chief's Song (Cheltenham 2m, Gd).

Dorans Pride improving

DORANS PRIDE is taking his first steps on the road to recovery after twice being operated on for colic.

Michael Hourigan's six-year-old, an emphatic five-length winner of the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham last March, was reported to be fighting for his life after treatment on Thursday, but yesterday Hourigan had brighter news.

"He had a good night with very little pain and no setbacks. If that sort of progress continues, we are hopeful," said the trainer. "Desert Orchid had this operation, and Kings Lake had it at 14 and covered afterwards."

Provided that Dorans Pride — who was due to contest the Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot today — makes a full recovery, he still faces a lay-off of about a year before a return to action.

Results

CATTERICK

HEREFORD

3-1 fav Windward Ariom. 9 ran. 6, 1½. (R Hodges) Tote: £8.50; £2.80, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £18.10. Trio: £38.90. CSF: £23.79. Tricast: £88.18. QUADPOT: Not won.
PLACEPOT: £78.80. JACKPOT: £34,047.40.

LINGFIELD

12.30: 1, SPENCER'S REVENGE, G Bardwell (3-1 jnt-fav); 2, Second Colours (4-1); 3, Masnun (3-1 jnt-fav). 12 ran. Hd, ¾. (M Ryan) Tote: £2.70; £1.90, £1.30, £1.90. Dual F: £9.10. Trio: £8.10. CSF: £16.07.
1.00: 1, ALMUHTARAM, Mr M Armytage (9-2); 2, Tribal Peace (11-1); 3, Owdbetts

...Edstiran (10-1); 3, Chez Catalan (3-1 fav). 14 ran 3½, ½. (J Pearce) Tote: £27.30; £8.60, £2.40. Dual F: £58.90. Trio: £216.60. CSF: £200.69. Tricast: £705.64.
3.30: 1, FOUR OF SPADES, Amanda Sanders (8-1); 2, Quinsigimond Martin (33-1); 3, Field of Vision (9-1). 7-4 fav Crystal Heights. 13 ran. Sh hd, 1½. (P Evans) T: £8.60; £1.50, £3.30, £2.20. DF: £83.90. Trio: £82.60. CSF: £161.58. Tricast: £1,630.64.
QUADPOT: Not won. PLACEPOT: £679.60.

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ASCOT	101	201	301
HAYDOCK	102	202	302
UTTOXETER	103	203	303
CATTERICK	104	204	304
NAVAN	120	220	320

صكذا من الاصل

Returning local boy departs . . . Durban-born Robin Smith, caught neatly by McMillan at second slip for 34, exits as another England batsman perishes of adrenalin overdose and too much aggression CLIVE MASON

South Africa v England: third Test, second day

Wallop bang crash go England

Mike Selvey in Durban

ALL THE old uncertainties and insecurities came back to haunt England at Kingsmead yesterday, as they converted a likely winning situation, an hour into the morning, into one in which by the second day's premature end they were desperately trying to keep in touch with the match — and fearing they would have to do it without much help from the hamstrung John Crawley.

South Africa had resumed on 139 for five after rain curtailed the first day, and they slumped to 153 for nine through desperate batting and enthusiastic English swing bowling that knew a good thing when it saw it.

That, however, was the high point of England's day, which ended almost a dozen overs early because of bad light, making it 37 overs lost here so far.

South African resurrection came in the form of an improbable last-wicket partnership of 72 between Shaun Pollock (36 not out) and Allan Donald (32) which, despite the extensive home batting line-up, was the highest of the innings. It lasted until half an hour after lunch and took the total to a more respectable 225.

That effort galvanised South Africa and depressed England in equal measure, and after Mike Atherton had gone to Donald in a calamitous opening over, England batted like millionaires when something less profligate might have been in order.

It has to be said that the tourists also suffered from some exceptional catching, but by the time the umpires offered the light, England were languishing at 123 for five, still 102 adrift. Much will depend today on Graeme Hick, who is 16 not out, and on how Crawley fares overnight.

Crawley, due to take up the poisoned chalice at No. 3, limped from the field during the Pollock-Donald defiance, having injured his hamstring chasing round the boundary. It was atrocious luck both for England, in what has been a relatively injury-free tour, and for Crawley, who had awaited his opportunity in the side with patience.

"If I can hang around and score a few runs it could be very important for the team," was the extent of his ambitions last night, though the England physiotherapist Wayne Morton was saying he could only assess the long-term damage this morning. "I'll just have to get on with it and do the best I can," said Crawley.

However, with a minimum 10 days to a fortnight for such an injury to heal, it seems certain to keep Crawley out of the fourth Test starting on January 2 and perhaps the last one as well. His tour may well be over.

The management will consider this morning whether to send for a replacement — Nick Knight, probably, or Nasser Hussain — from the A tour in Pakistan.

There is a real chance that rain will ruin this match, however, as one pessimistic local forecast yesterday stopped only just short of urging ark-building but suggested farmers move their livestock to high ground. In any event England must once more scrutinise their lack of determination once Atherton is out.

Certainly both Donald and Pollock bowled with pace and aggression yesterday, dragging life from a sluggish pitch, as did Craig Matthews later. But that does not explain an apparent desire to flog boundaries at the expense of all else.

Most culpable were Alec Stewart and Robin Smith, who added 70 for the third wicket after Atherton and Graham Thorpe had been superbly caught at fourth and first slip respectively. In the circumstances one or both men ought to have played a major innings.

Smith, in the city of his childhood, could be forgiven his adrenalin surge, but he went headlong into it by slashing his first ball from Donald only just over second slip and proceeded to swish away vigorously and perilously before bringing himself under a measure of control. Then, having hit six sledgehammer fours, he prodded at Matthews and was caught low down at second slip.

With Crawley injured and Hick, the last fit batsman, at the crease, it was then incumbent upon Stewart to retrench. Instead, in Matthews's very next over, having just pulled his eighth boundary, he forced the same bowler unnecessarily and was caught at gully.

Stewart has played four innings in the series now and on each occasion he has been a victim of his own excess. Bright forties from openers are not the stuff of Test cricket and the way his bat slammed against his pad as he walked off indicated that he knew it.

Even Jack Russell, a hero in Johannesburg, became enmeshed in the frenetic atmosphere and saw Jonty Rhodes take flight at cover point to cling on to an expansive back-foot flay that will haunt him.

Yet it had all started so brightly for England. The first hour promised much as Peter Martin and Mark Ilott got the old ball to swing. Martin, who finished with four for 60, had made the breakthrough in the day's third over when McMillan edged a low catch to Russell. When Ilott then removed Rhodes, Richardson and Matthews (first ball) in the space of six deliveries, the end seemed nigh.

But Donald not only survived the hat-trick ball — by blocking it straight to the boundary — he went on to spend a further 1¾ hours in Pollock's company by playing sensibly, seeing off the second new ball and generally frustrating England, before Richard Illingworth bowled him.

SOUTH AFRICA
First innings (overnight: 139-5)

J N Rhodes lbw b Ilott	38
B M McMillan c Russell b Martin	28
†D J Richardson c Russell b Ilott	7
S M Pollock not out	36
C R Matthews lbw b Ilott	0
A A Donald b Illingworth	32
Extras (b11, nb1)	12
Total (100 overs)	225

Fall of wickets cont: 141, 152, 153, 153.
Bowling: Cork 27-12-64-0; Ilott 15-3-48-3; Martin 27-9-60-4; Illingworth 29-12-37-3; Hick 2-0-5-0.

ENGLAND
First innings

*M A Atherton c Hudson b Donald	2
A J Stewart c Hudson b Matthews	41
G P Thorpe c Cullinan b Donald	2
R A Smith c McMillan b Matthews	34
G A Hick not out	16
†R C Russell c Rhodes b Matthews	8
D G Cork not out	10
Extras (lb4, nb6)	10
Total (for 5, 40.3 overs)	123

Fall of wickets: 2, 13, 83, 93, 109.
To bat: J P Crawley, M C Ilott, R K Illingworth, P J Martin.
Bowling: Donald 8.3-1-40-2; Pollock 11-1-27-0; Matthews 12-5-31-3; McMillan 9-3-21-0.
Umpires: D L Orchard and S A Bucknor.

Cricket

Cottam in line to coach Yorkshire

David Foot

BOB COTTAM, Somerset's director of cricket, has emerged as a possible leading candidate for the newly created post of manager-coach at Yorkshire.

Cottam, who still has two years to run on his present contract at Taunton, said he was aware of the rumours linking him with the post and confirmed he had applied for the job.

Enigmatically he added that the Headingley job would be "one of the biggest and most attractive in cricket". Some Yorkshire committee members consider he has the kind of strong assertive personality, allied with coaching skills, that the county urgently need.

The new man will concentrate on first XI affairs as well as liaising with the coaching set-up and the county's Cricket Academy.

In a major internal revamp, as Yorkshire search for that elusive old-style stature, Steve Oldham, the present director of coaching, has been given a sideways appointment. Closing date for applications is the end of the year but so far there has been a relatively disappointing list of high-profile candidates. A senior umpire is understood to be among them.

Cottam, a man with firm, intrepid views, a good record for discovering young talent, and a sound sense of PR — seldom Yorkshire's forte in the past — is known to have been unhappy about certain developments at Somerset over recent months.

"I read on the Teletext of our supposed interest in Derbyshire's Allan Warner and Simon Base. No one had told me. I'd be utterly against it." The bowlers are aged 38 and 35 respectively.

David Capel has signed a new two-year contract with Northamptonshire — to the disappointment of Gloucestershire. The 32-year-old all-rounder, with 15 Tests and 23 one-day internationals to his credit, was thought to be ready for a move and Gloucestershire were poised to step in.

Hussain stars as England A gain the day

THE England A captain Nasser Hussain scored a brilliant 100 not out as his team maintained their unbeaten tour record with a dramatic one-run win over Pakistan A in Peshawar in the first of three one-day internationals.

Craig White also played a crucial role as Pakistan appeared to be coasting to towards the victory target of 226. But towards the end, needing only 15 runs from their last three overs with wickets in hand, they were thwarted by tight England bowling and sharp fielding.

A stunning diving catch at mid-on by the Man-of-the-Match Hussain removed the dangerous Asif Mujtaba in the 29th over. Azhar Mahmood gave good support to the opener Shahid Anwar until the all-rounder was run out in the 38th over.

Then, after Dean Headley had conceded just five runs from a tight penultimate over, Pakistan A were left needing five for victory from the last over, to be bowled by White.

The Yorkshire all-rounder's first delivery beat Anwar, who only scored a single from the second. Akram Raza was defeated by the third ball, and again, could only squeeze a single from the next. With three runs wanted from two balls, White produced a perfect yorker which Anwar did well to dig out. The last ball was cut to Hussain at point, who made sure there was no second run. That run completed Anwar's century.

Earlier White had hit an unbeaten 39 off 37 balls, but it was Hussain — who hit eight fours and completed his 99-ball hundred off the penultimate delivery of the innings — who provided the backbone of the innings with partnerships of 72 with the opener Nick Knight and an unbroken 81 in 10 overs with White.

Adelaide adds to the West Indies' worries

THE West Indies' troubles continue. The unhappy tourists lost the first match of the World Series Cup at the Adelaide Oval yesterday, beaten with something to spare by Sri Lanka.

Aravinda de Silva of Kent struck 46 off 60 balls to steer Sri Lanka past the West Indies' disappointing 160 for eight off 50 overs with four wickets standing and 30 balls unbowled.

"We haven't started this tour very well at all," said the West Indies captain Richie Richardson, "but I'm sure we will come good."

Sherwin Campbell stood firm when the West Indians made a shaky start in unhelpful conditions after being put in by Arjuna Ranatunga. Campbell made the top score of 47 off 102 balls. Roger Harper gave the innings some much-needed impetus with 23 off 29 balls.

Sri Lanka began disappointingly — Roshan Mahanama was out for a duck — but De Silva and Ranatunga, who scored 27 off 37 balls, completed an impressive recovery with a 59-run fourth-wicket stand. Ranatunga, who had also taken two wickets for 24, was named Man of the Match.

● Pakistan won the opening match of their one-day series by having New Zealand all out for 169 at Dunedin.

Ramiz Raja provided the foundation for Pakistan's 189 for nine with a painstaking 35. Inzamam-ul-Haq (32 off 49 balls) and Abdul Latif (26 off 33 balls) provided the acceleration.

New Zealand lost both openers inside the first five overs, then Waqar Younis cut through the middle order with three wickets in nine balls. The resistance was led by Roger Twose (59 off 93 balls).

India's women triumphant

INDIA's women cruised to a seven-wicket victory over England in yesterday's deciding one-day international in Madras.

England, who went into the match with high hopes of scoring a double success after their 1-0 Test-series victory, struggled to 146 for nine from their 50 overs, with their captain Karen Smithies top-scoring with 38.

But India were always in control in their reply, Anjun Chopra compiling an unbeaten 57 to guide her side to 149 for three with more than five overs to spare to clinch a 3-2 victory in the series.

Leicestershire have taken the wicketkeeper Phil Whitticase back on to the playing staff for next season.

The 30-year-old, who joined the county in 1983 and was capped in 1987, was not offered a contract last summer but worked in the club's marketing department.

He has also been given a new role as coach at the Grace Road indoor school during the winter.

Leicestershire have agreed to a request from the 22-year-old left-arm pace bowler Alamgir Sheriyar to be released from his contract for personal reasons.

Athletics

British only for Olympic trials

Stephen Bierley

BRITAIN's leading international athletes, with the backing of the British Athletic Federation, have overturned more than a century of tradition by persuading — some would say forcing — the AAA of England to bar foreign athletes from its championships next June.

The championships, which began in 1880, now double as the British trials but it had become increasingly clear, with the approach of next year's Olympics in Atlanta, that the home athletes — whose representatives Geoff Parsons and Roger Black have been in talks with the federation since last month — did not want the distraction of overseas competition.

On Thursday the federation announced that it was adopting a first-two-past-the-post policy at the trials, with a third place being left open to selection. There was just one sticking-point remaining: the open nature of the trials.

After a further four-hour meeting on Thursday evening what might be seen as a classic British compromise was reached. The championships will remain "open", but only to athletes eligible to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Olympics.

This will obviously be a disappointment to traditionalists; others will see it as British athletics dragging itself into the 20th century just in time for the millennium.

The power of the AAA has gradually been diminishing since the BAF was formed a few years ago, although it still has some clout and £1.3 million in its coffers.

However, the newly-formed athletes' focus group, currently surviving financially on a wing and prayer, is fast gaining respect and authority. It recently surveyed the country's top 240 or so athletes on numerous matters, although whether or not the trials should be open or closed was not queried.

But many athletes appended a note to their answers asking that they should be closed. No other country allows overseas competitors into its Olympic trials.

As a result a joint statement was issued yesterday by the AAA, the BAF, and Black and Parsons. "The AAA's senior championships for 1996 will be open only to athletes eligible to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Olympic games. This is a significant achievement and has been brought about by the close co-operation of the AAA of England, the BAF and international athletes."

Weekend fixtures

(3.0 unless stated)
(a-t = all-ticket)

Soccer

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Arsenal v Chelsea
A Villa v Coventry
Blackburn v Middlesbrough
Newcastle v Everton
QPR v Bolton
Sheff Wed v Leeds
West Ham v Southampton
Wimbledon v Tottenham
Tomorrow
Liverpool v Man Utd (4.0)

FA VASE: Third round: Thamesmead Tn v Brentwood; Tilbury v Aveley; Slade Green v Diss Tn. Third-round replay: Furness v Raunds Tn.
SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: Second round: Slough v Woking.
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Altrincham v Telford; Bromsgrove v Welling; Dover v Bath; Halifax v Runcorn; Hednesford v Kidderminster; Kettering v Farnborough; Macclesfield v Gateshead; Morecambe v Stalybridge; Northwich v Stevenage; Southport v Dag & Red.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier: Accrington Stan v Witton A; Boston Utd v Marine; Chorley v Winsford Utd; Colwyn B v Buxton; Droylsden v Leek Tn; Frickley v Barrow; Guiseley v Bamber Bridge; Hyde Utd v B Auckland; Knowsley v Emley; Matlock v Blyth Sprtns; Spennymoor v Gainsboro. First: Alfreton Tn v Whitley B; Ashton Utd v Worksop Tn; Atherton LR v Workington; Congleton Tn v Farsley Celtic; Eastwood Tn v Lancaster C; Harrogate Tn v Gretna; Leigh v Curzon Ashton; Lincoln Utd v Fleetwood; Netherfield v Warrington Tn.
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier: Bishop's Stortford v Yeading; Chertsey Tn v Molesey; Dulwich v Harrow Bor; Enfield v Yeovil; Hayes v Carshalton; Hendon v Kingstonian; Purfleet v Aylesbury (1.45); St Albans v Bromley; Sutton Utd v Grays; Walton & Hersham v Hitchin; Worthing v Boreham Wood. First: Abingdon Tn v Barking; Aldershot Tn v Wokingham Tn; Barton Rvrs v Wembley; Billericay Tn v Oxford C; Bognor Regis Tn v Marlow; Chesham Utd v Maidenhead Utd; Leyton Pennant v Basingstoke Tn; Ruislip Manor v Berkhamsted Tn; Staines Tn v Uxbridge; Thame Utd v Tooting & Mitcham Utd; Whyteleafe v Heybridge Swifts. Second: Banstead Ath v Wivenhoe Tn; Canvey Is v Dorking; Edgware Tn v Bedford Tn; Egham Tn v Collier Row; Hemel Hempstead v Saffron Walden Tn; Hungerford Tn v Croydon; Leatherhead v Cheshunt; Ware v Bracknell Tn; Witham Tn v Chalfont St Peter. Third: Camberley Tn v Cove; Clapton v Hertford Tn; Harlow Tn v Wealdstone; Hornchurch v Flackwell Hth; Kingsbury Tn v Wingate & Finchley; Leighton Tn v Horsham; Northwood v Epsom & Ewell; Southall v E Thurrock Utd; Windsor & Eton v Harefield Utd.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido v Flint Tn; Caersws v Rhyl; Connah's Q v Conwy (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Caernarfon Tn; Holywell v Briton F; Llanelli v Bangor C.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE
First Division
Barnsley v Charlton
Grimsby v Southend
Huddersfield v West Brom
Ipswich v Sheff Utd
Millwall v Derby
Oldham v Birmingham
Portsmouth v Luton
Reading v Sunderland
Stoke v C Palace
Watford v Tranmere
Wolverhampton v Port Vale
Tomorrow
Leicester v Norwich

Second Division
Blackpool v Bradford C
Bournemouth v Stockport
Bristol Rvrs v Oxford Utd
Carlisle v Walsall
Chesterfield v Brentford
Notts Co v Crewe
Peterborough v Rotherham
Shrewsbury v Brighton
Swansea v Burnley
Swindon v Wrexham
Wycombe v Bristol C
York v Hull

Third Division
Bury v Gillingham
Chester v Preston (a-t)
Colchester v Scunthorpe
Darlington v Barnet
Doncaster v L Orient
Exeter v Rochdale
Fulham v Northampton
Hartlepool v Cambridge Utd
Lincoln v Plymouth
Mansfield v Cardiff
Torquay v Scarborough
Wigan v Hereford

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier: Baldock Tn v Ilkeston Tn; Burton v Merthyr; Chelmsford v Sudbury Tn; Cheltenham v Worcester; Gravesend & N v Stafford; Halesowen v Dorchester; Newport AFC v Gresley Rvrs; Rushden & D'monds v Hastings; Salisbury v VS Rugby. Midland: Bedworth Utd v Hinckley Tn; Buckingham Tn v Redditch Utd; Grantham Tn v Leicester Utd; Kings Lynn v Dudley Tn; Moor Green v Corby Tn; Nuneaton Bor v Solihull Bor; Paget Rngrs v Bury Tn; RC Warwick v Evesham Utd; Rothwell Tn v Bilston Tn; Stourbridge v Sutton Coldfield; Tamworth v Bridgnorth Tn. Southern: Bashley v Yate Tn; Cinderford Tn v Newport (IoW); Clevedon Tn v Margate; Erith & Belvedere v Forest Green Rvrs; Fleet Tn v Ashford Tn; Poole Tn v Weston-s-Mare; Sittingbourne v Havant Tn; Tonbridge Angels v Fareham Tn; Trowbridge Tn v Fisher 93; Weymouth v Braintree Tn; Witney Tn v Waterlooville.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier: Backwell Utd v Paulton Rvrs; Barnstaple Tn v Bristol MF; Brislington v Bridport; Calne Tn v Tiverton Tn; Crediton Utd v Chippenham Tn; Elmore v Taunton Tn; Odd Down Ath v Bideford Tn; Torrington v Frome Tn; Westbury Utd v Mangotsfield Utd.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP
First round
Albion v Deveronvale
Glasgow Univ v Spartans (2.15)

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First: Blackpool Rvrs v Kidsgrove Ath; Burscough v Glossop NE; Eastwood Hanley v Chadderton; Holker OB v Bootle; Mossley v Maine Road; Nantwich Tn v Darwen; Rossendale Utd v Prescot; St Helens Tn v Penrith; Salford C v Clitheroe; Skelmersdale Utd v Flixton; Trafford v Newcastle Tn.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First: Billingham Syn v Peterlee; Consett v West Auckland; Durham C v Shildon; Eppleton CW v Bedlington Terriers; Murton v Guisborough Tn; RTM Newcastle v Chester Le Street; Seaham RS v Dunston Federation; Tow Law Tn v Ferryhill Ath; Whickham v Stockton; Whitby Tn v Crook Tn.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier: Denaby Utd v Goole Tn; Glasshoughton Welf v Arnold Tn; Hatfield Main v Belper Tn; Hucknall Tn v Brigg Tn; Liversedge v Armthorpe Welf; N Ferriby Utd v Ashfield Utd; Ossett Tn v Hallam; Pickering Tn v Maltby MW; Sheffield v Ossett Alb; Thackley v Stocksbridge PS.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First: Southampton v Arsenal.
S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0): First: Charlton Ath v Portsmouth; Chelsea v Millwall; Fulham v L Orient; Gillingham v Norwich C; QPR v Arsenal; Southend Utd v Ipswich Tn; Tottenham v West Ham Utd; Watford v Cambridge Utd.
IRISH LEAGUE: First: Ballymena v Ballyclare; Carrick v Larne; Newry v Coleraine; Omagh Tn v Distillery.
LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier: Galway Utd v Sligo Rovers (7.0); UCD v Derry C (7.30). Tomorrow: Dundalk v Shelbourne (6.15); Shamrock Rvrs v St Patricks Ath (2.15).

Rugby League

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Round Two: Eastmoor v Leigh Miners Wel (2.30); Lock Lane v Beverley (2.0); Oldham St Annes v Thatto Hth (2.0); Saddleworth v Heworth (2.30); Skirlaugh v Mayfield (2.0); Thornhill v Hemel Hempstead (2.0); West Hull v Blackpool (2.0); Wigan St Patricks v West Bowling (2.30); Woolston v Egremont (2.30).
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First Division: Askam v Blackbrook (2.0); Dewsbury Cel v East Leeds (2.0); Leigh East v Moldgreen (2.0). Second Division: Eccles v Redhill (2.0); Milford v New Earswick (2.0); Normanton v Hull Dockers (2.0); Ovenden v Shaw Cross (2.0); Wigan St Judes v York Acorn (2.0).

Tomorrow

STONES CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford v Leeds; Halifax v Workington; London Broncos v Sheffield (Charlton Ath); Oldham v Wigan. First Division: Featherstone v Batley (3.30); Salford v Rochdale; Wakefield v Hull (3.30); Whitehaven v Keighley (3.30); Widnes v Huddersfield. Second Division: Bramley v Highfield; Doncaster v Chorley (2.0); Hull KR v Swinton (3.15); Hunslet v Carlisle (3.30); York v Barrow (3.15).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE
Premier Division
Aberdeen v Hearts
Celtic v Falkirk
Hibernian v Raith
Kilmarnock v Partick

Rugby Union

THE SAVE & PROSPER INTERNATIONAL: England v Western Samoa (2.30, Twickenham).
CIS INSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Northern Group: Northumberland v Cumbria (2.0, Newcastle Gosforth); Yorkshire v Durham (2.15, Keighley). Tomorrow: Midlands Semi-final: Warwickshire v Staffordshire (Rugby).
U-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Northern Group: Northumberland v Cumbria (12.0, Newcastle Gosforth). Tomorrow: Lancashire v Cheshire (2.15, Fylde); Yorkshire v Durham (2.15, Wharfedale). Tomorrow: South West: Pool 1: Oxfordshire v Buckinghamshire (2.0, Banbury).
SUN ALLIANCE COLTS COUNTY FINAL: E Midlands v Hertfordshire (12.15, Twickenham)
INTER PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Munster v Leinster (2.30, Musgrave Pk); Ulster v Exiles (2.30, Belfast).
SWALEC CUP (2.30): Fourth round: Aberavon v Caerphilly; Abercrave v Blackwood; Abertillery v Hendy; Blaina v Abercynon; Builth Wells v Fleur De Lys; Cardiff v Oakdale; Cardiff Inst v Maesteg Celtic; Cardigan v Neath; Carmarthen Quins v Bridgend; Cefn Cribbwr v Whitland; Garndiffaith v Newbridge; Glifach Goch v Cross Keys; Heol-Y-Cyw v Cowbridge; Llanegennech v Abergavenny; Llanharan v Pontypridd; Maesteg v Bonymaen; Mountain Ash v Ystradgynlais; Newcastle Emlyn v Merthyr; Newport v Tumble; Newport Saracens v Tonmawr; Penarth v Ebbw Vale; Penygraig v Glynneath; Resolven v Llanelli; Rhymney v Nelson; Rumney v Pontypool; S Wales Police v Old Illtydians; Swansea v Tenby Utd; Talywain v Dunvant; Treorchy v Kidwelly; Vardre v Glamorgan Wndrs; Ynysddu v Old Penarthians; Ystrad Rhondda v Llandovery.
SRU TENNENTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Premier League: First Division: Heriots FP v Stirling County (2.0).
REGIONAL LEAGUE (2.0): East One: Boroughmuir v Musselburgh; Currie v Watsonians; Haddington v Edinburgh Wndrs; Preston Lodge v Biggar. East Two: Edinburgh Acads v Stewarts Mel FP; Grangemouth v Corstorphine; Kirkcaldy v Gordonians. South: Hawick v Gala; Jed-Forest v Langholm; Kelso v Peebles; Melrose v Selkirk. West: GHK v Ayr; Kilmarnock v Glasgow Acads; Wigtownshire v Glasgow Southern.
CLUB MATCHES: Bedford v Rotherham; Broughton Pk v Wigan (2.30); Cheltenham v Gordon League (2.30); Harlequins v Royal Navy (11.0); Harrogate v Leicester (2.15); Havant v Blackheath (2.30); Leeds v Hull Ionians (2.15); Lichfield v Syston (2.15); Liverpool St Helens v Fylde (2.30); Ldn Irish v Camberley; Northampton v W Hartlepool; Nuneaton v Barkers Butts (2.30); Orrell v Otley (2.0); Plymouth v Barry Hill (2.30); Preston G v Huddersfield (12.30); Reading v Basingstoke (12.0); Richmond v Moseley (12.0); Rosslyn Pk v Lydney (12.30); Sandal v Macclesfield (2.15); Saracens v Ldn Scottish (12.0); Wakefield v Sale (2.30); Walsall v High Wycombe (2.15); Wasps v Newcastle Gosforth; Waterloo v Morley (2.15); Wharfedale v West Pk Bramhope (2.30); Winnington Pk v Ruthin (2.30); Worcester v Newbury (2.30).

Tomorrow

TENNENTS INTER DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Edinburgh District v South of Scotland (2.0, Meggetland); North & Midlands v Scottish Exiles (1.30).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE
First Division
Dundee v St Johnstone
Dunfermline v Airdrie
Gr Morton v Dundee Utd
Hamilton v Dumbarton
St Mirren v Clydebank

Second Division
Berwick v Montrose
Clyde v East Fife
Forfar v Stranraer
Queen of South v Stirling
Stenhousemuir v Ayr

Third Division
Brechin v Livingston
Cowdenbeath v Caledonian T
Queen's Park v Arbroath
Ross County v Alloa

Basketball

7-UP TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Worthing v Sheffield (8.0).
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Chester (8.0); Hemel v Leopards (7.30); Leicester v London Towers (7.30); Thames Valley v Birmingham (8.0). Tomorrow: Birmingham v Manchester (6.0); Chester v Doncaster (5.0); Leopards v Worthing (5.0).
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Mens First Division: Coventry v Brixton (7.30); Oldham & Rochdale v Nottingham (8.0); Plymouth v Mid-Sussex (7.30); Solent v Ware (8.0). Tomorrow: Crystal Palace v Bury (4.0).
Womens First Division: Barking & Dagenham v Spelthorne (7.15); Northampton v Rhondda (6.0); Thames Valley v Plymouth (5.45). Tomorrow: Nottingham v London (4.0); Sheffield v Ipswich (4.0); Tyne & Wear v Birmingham (2.0).

Ice Hockey

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Cardiff v Milton Keynes (6.15); Durham v Sheffield (6.30); Slough v Fife (6.30). Tomorrow: Cardiff v Humberside (6.15); Milton Keynes v Fife (6.0); Newcastle v Nottingham (6.30).
Division One: Dumfries v Solihull (7.30); Guildford v Billingham (6.0); Murrayfield v Peterborough (7.0); Paisley v Chelmsford (7.0); Telford v Bracknell (7.30). Tomorrow: Blackburn v Chelmsford (6.0); Dumfries v Paisley (5.15); Guildford v Bracknell (5.15); Manchester v Peterborough (6.30); Medway v Swindon (5.15); Murrayfield v Telford (6.30); Solihull v Billingham (7.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE
Premier Division
Ards v Glentoran
Crusaders v Bangor
Glenavon v Cliftonville
Linfield v Portadown

Hockey

SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE: Pool A: (12.0, Bells SC, Perth).
EAST SUPER INDOOR LEAGUE: (12.15, Aldenham School. Tomorrow: 9.30).
MIDLAND INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS (9.30, Perdiswell, Worcester. Tomorrow 10.0).
NORTH INDOOR LEAGUE (10.30, Peterlee. Tomorrow: 10.30).
MEN'S CLUBS: Ashford (Mx) v B Stortford; Bowdon v Neston; Brooklands v Chester; Canterbury v Tunbridge Wells (12.0); Chichester v Bognor; Crawley v Lewes; IES v Ipswich; Khalsa v Peterboro; Leicester W v Sheffield; Maidenhead v Richings Pk; Newport v Westbury Banks; O Southendians v Colchester; Petersfield v Wokingham; Robinsons v Bridgend; St Neots v Bedford; W Herts v Oxford Hawks; Woking v Basingstoke.
WELSH WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Haverfordwest v Cardiff Ath; Llantair v Pontypridd; Newport v Penarth; Newtown v Swansea.
SENIOR WOMEN'S CLUBS: Anchorians v Bexleyheath; Bedford v HH (1.0); Bournemouth v Havant; Chelmsford v Woking (2.45); Crimson R v Tamworth; Dulwich v Tulse Hill (1.30); Guildford v E Grinstead (1.30, Lansdown, Leominster); Pavious v Belper; Peterboro v Cambs C (10); Peveril v Hope Valley (1.0); Redbridge v WGC; Southampton v Famboro; Stone v Blackburn; Wimbledon v St Albans; Winnington Pk v Poynton; Wokingham v Chicester; York v Adel. Tomorrow: Brooklands v Peelers; Colwyn Bay v Whitchurch (2.0); Dereham v Norwich C; Tenbury v Leominster (3.0).

Tomorrow

WEST INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Firebrands, Isca, Leominster, Royal Artillery (10.0, Larkhill, Amesbury).

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Soccer

EURO '96: What can England expect? **David Lacey** previews tomorrow's draw

Hopes menaced by sudden death

AS THE owner of a winers' and diners' club, Terry Venables has just lost his latest court case. As England coach, his full trial begins tomorrow.

Two years of theory and hypothesis will end when the draw for the 1996 European Championship is made at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. For although England are due to play another six warm-up matches, their performances, after tomorrow, will be judged against the sort of opposition they will be encountering in June.

England will shortly know what they have to do to win a second major international honour to go with the World Cup of 1966. Venables is about have a better idea of how strong are his chances of being able to satisfy the FA that he should be retained to guide England into the next World Cup.

The better England perform next summer, the more likely they are to emerge in the right frame of mind for what lies ahead. Yet history is against their becoming the new European champions. Only three of the previous nine tournaments have been won by the home country.

This time the contest is bigger than ever, involving 16 teams and run on similar lines to the 1966 World Cup. The top two teams in each of the four groups will go into knock-out quarter-finals.

From then on, however, there will be one crucial difference, namely the introduction of sudden-death overtime if the scores are level after 90 minutes. Penalties will still decide the winners if there are no goals in extra time, but the moment someone scores the match ends.

As England have drawn half of the 14 games they have played since Venables took over, the chances of their becoming involved in situations of this sort must be reasonably high.

In 1966 England won the trophy without leaving Wembley, and the 1996 format gives them an opportunity to do so again. The winners of Group A, England's group, stay in London for the quarter-finals and, if successful, the semi-finals. But should England finish second they would have to play their quarter-final at Anfield, with a semi-final at Old Trafford.

The seedings have ensured that England will not meet Denmark, the holders, Germany or Spain in the first round. But manifold dangers lurk elsewhere.

It is hard to see how England can be given the sort of draw they enjoyed in 1966 — when Uruguay, France and Mexico were lined up against them while Brazil, Hungary, Portugal and Bulgaria all went into the North-west group — without questions being asked. The best they could expect would be Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Turkey. However the Uefa president Lennart Johansson yesterday denied that English and Scottish interests would deliberately be kept apart.

Obviously Holland would be bad news for Venables as the strong team in England's group. Tony Adams, turned inside-out by Marco van Basten in Düsseldorf in 1988, would hardly relish the thought of playing against Patrick Kluivert. Italy, habitually slow starters, might be better, Romania or France better still.

Whatever England's fate tomorrow, the reality is that Venables will not attempt to conquer Europe with flair he does not have, any more than Alf Ramsey set out to beat the world 29 years ago through superior English technique.

By the time England take the field at Wembley on June 8 for the opening game of Euro '96 their coach will be hoping to have a team sound in organisation and spirit and one that is hard to beat.

A place in the semi-finals will be the least of Venables's ambitions. Tomorrow he will have a better idea of just how *realistic a proposition this is.*

Coming again . . . Dutch fans at Anfield on Tuesday celebrate their team's 2–0 play-off win over Ireland that earned them a place in the finals PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

THE CONTENDERS

BULGARIA
Coach: Dimitar Penev
EC record: Quarter-finals 1968.
Bulgaria will do well to emulate their 1994 World Cup successes. So much depends on the form, fitness and mood of Stoichkov. But they will be skilful, well organised and extremely quick on the counter-attack, and in Mihailov should have one of the tournament's outstanding goalkeepers.
Men to watch:
Stoichkov, Lechkov.
Rating: ★★★

CZECH REPUBLIC
Coach: Dusan Uhrin
EC record (as Czechoslovakia): Winners 1976. Also qualified 1980.
The Czechs precipitated Norway's elimination and forced Holland into a play-off, so although the country that won the 1976 tournament is now half of what it was, clearly important qualities are still there. Good passing and movement, based on a sound defence, will make them awkward opponents.
Men to watch:
Skuhravy, Nemec.
Rating: ★★

DENMARK
Coach: Richard Moller Nielsen
EC record: Winners 1992. Semi-finals 1964. Also qualified 1984, 1988.
This time the Danes have not had to wait for one of the finalists — it was Yugoslavia in 1992 — to be thrown out to let them into the tournament. Both Laudrups, moreover, will be there but without Povlsen and Lars Olsen, so important to their triumph in Sweden, the present squad lacks depth.
Men to watch:
Brian and Michael Laudrup.
Rating: ★★

CROATIA
Coach: Miroslav Blazevic
EC record: New entry.
Croatia are strangers no more. Alerted by their victory in Italy in the qualifiers, all of Europe now recognises their inherent strengths. Defensively they can look wooden but there is no denying the speed and breadth of their attack. A team to avoid until the later stages.
Men to watch:
Boban, Suker, Boksic.
Rating: ★★★

Coming soon . . . Zvonimir Boban of Milan and Croatia

ENGLAND
Coach: Terry Venables
EC record: Third 1968. Quarter-finals 1972. Also qualified 1988, 1992.
England can hardly fail to improve on the wretched showing in Sweden but there must be doubts, even with home advantage, about their winning the tournament. Venables will look to hard work and sound organisation to overcome the squad's lack of quality, but too much depends on Gascoigne staying fit.
Men to watch:
Shearer, Gascoigne.
Rating: ★★

FRANCE
Coach: Aimé Jacquet
EC record: Winners 1984. Semi-finals 1960. Quarter-finals 1980, 1984, 1968. Also qualified 1992.
After a barren start, Jacquet managed to qualify without depending on Cantona or Ginola and will look to Desailly and Deschamps to give the French their momentum next summer.
Men to watch:
Desailly, Deschamps, Karembeu.
Rating: ★★

GERMANY
Coach: Berti Vogts
EC record: Winners (as West Germany) 1972 and 1980. Runners-up 1976, 1992. Semi-finals 1988. Also qualified 1984.
To Jürgen Klinsmann falls the sort of responsibility that used to rest on the shoulders of Gerd Müller when West Germany were carrying all before them in the early Seventies. With Kohler, Helmer, Sammer and Hässler also giving them considerable experience Germany again look the team to beat.
Men to watch:
Klinsmann, Hässler.
Rating: ★★★★

HOLLAND
Coach: Guus Hiddink
EC record: Winners 1988. Semi-finals 1976, 1992. Also qualified 1980.
Given Van Basten's retirement and the gaps left by Gullit and Rijkaard, the speed of Holland's regeneration is staggering. It is all down to the Ajax reproductive system, of course, and nobody will complain much if Seedorf, Davids, Overmars and Kluivert sweep all before them.
Men to watch:
Kluivert, Overmars, Seedorf.
Rating: ★★★★

ITALY
Coach: Arrigo Sacchi
EC record: Winners 1968. Semi-finals 1980, 1988. Quarter-finals 1972.
The usual moody talent, the usual wobbles — but in the end Italy's qualification left little doubt about their ability to make an impact in 1996, having missed 1992. In Maldini they have one of the world's best players, in Del Piero one of its most exciting newcomers, in Zola a potential match-winner.
Men to watch:
Maldini, Del Piero, Zola.
Rating: ★★★★

PORTUGAL
Coach: Antonio Oliveira
EC record: Semi-finals 1984. Quarter-finals 1960.
Portugal have a solid case for reaching the semi-finals, at the very least. After winning the World Youth Cup twice, the squad has grown up together and, as England discovered this week, Portuguese teamwork is instinctive. If there is a doubt it concerns the attack's ability to punch its weight.
Men to watch:
Paulo Sousa, Rui Costa, Helder.
Rating: ★★★

ROMANIA
Coach: Anghel Iordanescu
EC record: Quarter-finals 1960, 1972.
Though Romania will do well to repeat their best performances of 1994, they should still play some of the best football in 1996. Opponents will find it hard to combat the Romanian mixture of tenacious tackling and inspired creative play. With Hagi and Lacatus anything is possible.
Men to watch:
Hagi, Lacatus, Raducioiu.
Rating: ★★★

RUSSIA
Coach: Oleg Romantsev
EC record (as Soviet Union): Winners 1960. Runners-up 1964, 1972, 1988. Semi-finals 1968. Quarter-finals 1976.
The Ukrainian influences so crucial to the successes achieved by the Soviet Union have all but disappeared, but this Russian team is rich in quality nevertheless. Important elements of the impressive Spartak Moscow side are there and Kanchelskis, home from home, may have a contribution to make.
Men to watch:
Onopko, Kulkov, Yuran.
Rating: ★★★★

SCOTLAND
Coach: Craig Brown
EC record: Qualified 1992.
At least the Scots are there again, and will remember their brave showing in Sweden last time with a smidgen of pride. There may be nothing like the quality in the side that there was in the days of Baxter, Law and Mackay but those teams consistently fell below their potential. This one has guts.
Men to watch:
Booth, McAllister, Hendry.
Rating: ★

SPAIN
Coach: Javier Clemente
EC record: Winners 1964. Runners-up 1984. Quarter-finals 1968, 1976. Also qualified 1980, 1988.
Spain looked impressive in the early stages of the 1994 World Cup but were eventually let down by the lack of a goal-scoring alternative when chances were not falling to Caminero. There are more options now, among them Raul of Real Madrid. As potential winners, Spain are up there with Holland, Germany and Italy.
Men to watch:
Caminero, Hierro.
Rating: ★★★★

SWITZERLAND
Coach: Roy Hodgson
EC record: First time in finals.
If they are going to make a serious impact on the tournament the Swiss need a fit Chapuisat restored to their attack. Sforza, Sutter, Knup and Turkyilmaz will give them a lively potential and the defence looks reasonably solid, but any progress beyond the quarter-finals will be a bonus.
Men to watch:
Sforza, Sutter.
Rating: ★★

TURKEY
Coach: Fatih Terim
EC record: First time in finals.
Competing in these finals for the first time, Turkey will be more than satisfied if they make the last eight from their opening group. Yet they should not be underestimated, and Hakan and Tugay will stir unhappy memories of the Galatasaray experience for Manchester United supporters.
Men to watch:
Hakan, Tugay.
Rating: ★

Italy in future shock?

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

IF BY chance Italy find themselves in the same group as England in tomorrow's draw for the European Championship finals, remember you read it here first.

According to the Italian paper Il Giornale the Italians already know they will be in England's group, basing themselves in Birmingham and playing two group games at Villa Park and the other at Wembley against England.

The story says that the president of the Italian FA has "been working on this understanding for quite some time". It also reveals that Italian officials have already been checking out the hotels in Birmingham ready for next summer and that another official has even visited Birmingham City to smooth the waters after City's Anglo-Italian Cup bust-up in Ancona.

However, should this story prove to be untrue, remember you did not read it here first.

NO WONDER there is concern that Scotland and England should not end up in the same group in tomorrow's draw: in a dress rehearsal in Birmingham last week, they did.

LAST Monday, Dave Bassett resigned as manager of Sheffield United. Three days previously, his number had come up in the Blades Revival Draw. The prize? £2,000 in travel vouchers.

STUCK in the past. Frank Worthington was probably shaking his feet in disbelief watching the international games on Tuesday and Wednesday. Whereas the ball stuck unerringly to the boots of the Portugal and Holland players no matter the speed or direction of the pass reaching them, their England and Republic of Ireland counterparts made the ball look as if it had met the wrong end of a magnet. As Frank once memorably said: "Domestic players these days can trap the ball further than I could kick it."

LAST Friday, Granada television ran a feature on Duncan Ferguson's reserve-team comeback which included an interview with Vinny Samways. Unfortunately Vinny's advice for Duncan was slightly open to misinterpretation: "He should get his head down." (from Graeme Brock, Stockport).

MICK BRAZIL of London turned over to Match of the Day last Saturday and was sure he heard the commentator say: "And Hirst has just cut the Manchester United defence in half." Does this mean we may soon see them pickled in formaldehyde at the Tate Gallery?

APPARENTLY there is no truth in the rumour that Leicester are to give the manager's job to Graham Taylor simply because they know that no one will want to poach him.

GEORGIOU Kinkladze's impact on Manchester City has been enormous. The fans love him. The manager loves him. And acknowledging that the player has had trouble settling down to life in Manchester away from his family and friends, Alan Ball told City's agm this week: "I'm pleased to tell you all that we have received permission for Gio's mother to join him."

"Great," shouted a voice from the back of the room. "Where does she play?"

WHAT a coincidence. Carlton Palmer came on as a surprise substitute for Leeds Reserves in midweek and shortly afterwards got booked for kicking the ball away. It took him past 21 disciplinary points and means he misses the league games against Bolton and Everton. But it also means that the threat of suspension is now lifted for the FA Cup tie at Derby and the Coca-Cola Cup tie against Reading.

THERE was Cambridge's Carlo Corazzin trying to kick off last Saturday's game when the Lincoln players kept encroaching into the centre circle. Three times they did this and three times Corazzin delayed the kick-off. And what did the ref do? Booked Corazzin for time-wasting — before the game had even begun.

£23m lottery gift for Hampden

Patrick Glenn

QUEEN'S PARK, the oldest club in Scotland still playing in the national league, and the only amateurs in the professional game, yesterday became the country's most spectacular prize-winners when they were handed £23 million of National Lottery money.

The grant, received through the agency of the Millennium Commission, will fund almost half the £51 million reconstruction which will make Hampden Park one of the world's outstanding stadiums.

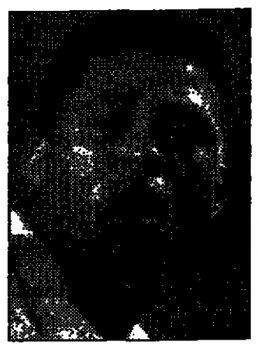
Most of the rest of the money required to complete the work is in place through pledges from various bodies and a debenture scheme in which fans, corporate and individual, can participate.

Hampden has already undergone a spectacular overhaul, and demolition of the main stand will begin in February, with the rebuilt edifice scheduled for completion by the spring of 1998 in time to accommodate the European Nations Youth Championship finals.

Facilities at the new South Stand will include a museum of football and an international media centre. Work will also begin on the West Stand, to incorporate a sports medical research and rehabilitation centre.

The national stadium will be brought up to Fifa's and Uefa's five-star standard, making it a "preferred venue" for major tournaments and events. The stadium will remain in the ownership of Queen's Park, with profits from its operation being put back into sport.

Celtic, whose results have improved beyond recognition since they returned to the refurbished Celtic Park after an unhappy season last year as tenants at Hampden, have the opportunity to reduce Rangers' lead by one point when they entertain Falkirk at home today, with the champions' match at Motherwell held over until next Tuesday to accommodate live television.



Performance of the week: Patrick Kluivert (Ajax and Holland), whose two goals at Anfield put the Dutch into tomorrow's Euro '96 draw and left Jack Charlton to ponder his future.

English clubs stripped of a fourth Uefa Cup place

ENGLISH clubs have been stripped of a fourth Uefa Cup place next season because Wimbledon and Tottenham showed so little enthusiasm for the Intertoto Cup last summer.

After again leading the Fair Play rankings ahead of Sweden, Russia and Finland in 1994-95, England were entitled to the extra berth but Uefa has refused to grant it.

Both clubs originally declined to compete and both could not use their home grounds, which were undergoing improvements; they also borrowed youngsters from other clubs.

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, said: "We realised the situation was not best handled in England and we apologised profusely to Uefa several times.

"Presumably this is a once and for all decision and we won't get the place back."

Mike Walker, the former Norwich and Everton manager, is set to return to management with First Division Leicester.

Walker, aged 50, who was dismissed by Everton in November last year, has had talks with Leicester's chairman Martin George since the departure of Mark McGhee to Wolves. He will meet George again tomorrow; then, in his role as expert summariser for Anglia TV, he will watch Leicester take on Norwich, and an announcement ending his 13-month exile is expected after the match.

A N Other

AT THE age of 38 this most distinguished wearer of the green was still able to indulge in a spot of beachcombing. He had, however, always looked best in red, and when his feet left the ground the ball found the net with remarkable frequency.

Having passed his finals with rare distinction, scoring more than once in diverse company, he briefly went Dutch, tried a spot of wool-gathering, crossed the Channel, roved towards the Ribble, bashed a square, and then joined the terriers before turning bantamweight.

Last week: Roger Osborne (Ipswich, Colchester United).

TEAM SHEET

Arsenal v Chelsea

David Platt, who missed England's midweek game against Portugal with a hamstring strain he picked up in last week's 0-0 draw at Southampton, has recovered, which means that Arsenal can field an unchanged side; Dennis Bergkamp, rested last week, picked up a calf injury in Holland's midweek game and is out again.

Aston Villa v Coventry

Andy Townsend is fit for Villa after limping off with a knee injury during the Republic of Ireland's midweek defeat. Noel Whelan is set for his Coventry debut after signing from Leeds for £2 million; the goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic is banned and will be replaced by the Australian John Filan; and the defenders Richard Shaw and Paul Williams, both suspended last week, return.

Blackburn v Middlesbrough

Chris Coleman, who joined Rovers this week for £2.8 million from Crystal Palace, may be brought in to strengthen a defence that leaked five goals last weekend, particularly if Colin Hendry fails to recover from back and rib injuries. Mike Newell and Chris Sutton are doubtful so Graham Fenton or Niklas Gudmundsson could partner Alan Shearer up front. Boro will be unchanged from the side that beat Manchester City 4-1 at home last week.

Newcastle v Everton

Shaka Hislop's hip injury gives Pavel Srnicek his first full appearance of the season in goal for the Premiership leaders. Everton are leaving until the last minute a decision on whether to give their Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson his first full appearance since being released from prison.

Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds

The Wednesday manager David Pleat is likely to keep the side that held Manchester United to a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford last week. The club's new £4.5 million signings Darko Kovacevic and Dejan Stefanovic from Red Star Belgrade, who are awaiting international clearance, will watch the match. The Ireland defender Gary Kelly returns from international duty for Leeds, who welcome Gary McAllister back from injury. The central defender David Wetherall is expected to play after a knee problem.

QPR v Bolton

Rangers must again do without their leading scorer Daniele Dichio, serving the second game of a three-match suspension. Bolton's full-back Jimmy Phillips has flu and is doubtful and the bottom club are still without the long-term injury victims Alan Stubbs, Mixu Paatelainen, David Lee and Alan Thompson.

West Ham v Southampton

West Ham's defender Alvin Martin has recovered from injury and seems certain to play. Saints will be without their injured wingers Frankie Bennett (hamstring) and Neil Heaney (virus) so Gordon Watson and Matthew Oakley are likely to get the call. The defender Jason Dodd faces a late fitness test on a foot injury and Alan Neilson stands by.

Wimbledon v Tottenham

Wimbledon's centre-back Andy Pearce is expected to be fit after a back problem, so Joe Kinnear is likely to retain the side that drew 1-1 at Leeds last week. The former captain Vinnie Jones is unlikely to be involved after having a transfer request granted this week. Tottenham's striker Teddy Sheringham is begging to overcome the hamstring trouble which kept him out of the England team in midweek. Both Sheringham and the full-back Clive Wilson, another hamstring victim, are rated at only 50-50. An untried striker, Steve Slade, and the defender Justin Edinburgh stand by.

Tomorrow

Liverpool v Manchester Utd

Liverpool, already without Ian Rush, Jamie Redknapp and Neil Ruddock, are hoping the flu victims Nigel Clough and John Scales recover. Clough is still suffering badly but the centre-back Scales has a good chance of being fit. United's Republic of Ireland midfielder Roy Keane is still not fully fit after his hernia operation, despite a reserve-team appearance on Thursday. The goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel and the winger Ryan Giggs are both likely to return, however.

هكذا من الاصل

THE BOSMAN VERDICT: Confusion, pessimism and unanswered questions

Few winners but a hell of a lot of losers

The reaction

Neil Robinson

LENNART Johansson, the president of Uefa, led football's counter-attack on yesterday's verdict, condemning the new transfer regulations as "an attack on football".

"We cannot yet see the full implications," he said. "But today players appear in club's balance sheets as assets. Tomorrow there will be no assets because a player can go without a fee. Yet clubs have paid billions for them. There are a few winners but a hell of a lot of losers from this judgment."

But he stressed that Uefa intended to carry on opposing the ruling: "There is an old saying that soup is not being served as warm as it is being cooked."

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, counselled caution. "The worst-case scenario is that the transfer system across Europe will be unable to be maintained. Hopefully that may not be the case.

"I hope there will be a period of calm reflection, with Uefa and players' unions sitting down and negotiating sensible changes to the transfer rules so the wider interests of the game as a whole can be protected." Kelly condemned the ending of the three-foreigner rule, which he said would make bigger clubs more wealthy.

However, not everyone was dismayed by yesterday's verdict. *Donald Findlay, the* Rangers vice-chairman, was delighted at the abolition of the three-foreigner ruling which has severely *limited* the Scottish champions' prospects in European competition.

"We are delighted with the verdict today, as this is something we have been campaigning for over a number of years," he said.

The verdict sparked an immediate search for a workable compromise that would prevent the abolition of the transfer system. Yesterday many English officials were pointing to the French system as the best way forward.

In France players are signed during their schooldays on long-term contracts until they are 24. When they reach the end of their contracts they are free to move on unless they have secured longer-term deals. A fee is payable — as compensation for money invested in development — only if they are transferred in the interim.

"The system has been in operation for more than 10 years and it works," said John Camkin, secretary of the League Managers' Association. "We think this could be the solution in England."

Vanishing boundaries

The doubts

Tom Usher

WHEN will this ruling come into effect?
The ruling came into effect yesterday. It is now clear that the fundamental principles of the freedom of movement of workers in the EU apply, such that nationality clauses and transfer rules restricting the movement of players whose contracts have expired are illegal.

Does this ruling only apply to football?
No. The European Court's judgment will apply equally to all professional sports. For example, there is nothing to prevent Harlequins rugby club from fielding a team of 15 Frenchmen.

Does the judgment apply to transfers between two clubs in the UK?
The judgment does not affect transfers which are purely internal within one member state, where the transferring player is a national of that member state. In other words, a UK national playing for Manchester United may still find himself subject to the old transfer rules if he wishes to move to Liverpool. However, a Frenchman will be able to move between the same two clubs unrestricted.

Is this position not unfair?
On the fact of it, yes. EU law on freedom of movement does not apply to purely internal situations, and national associations are still free to allow transfer fees to operate in respect of players of home nationality.

How will this position be resolved?
In order to avoid a mass exodus of players to other footballing nations of the EU, national associations should bring their own internal rules in line with the court's judgment, to ensure that domestic players may not be held back after the end of their contract by clubs awaiting a transfer fee.

Is it possible to be transferred to a foreign club for one week, and then to return to the club of your choice?
In theory this is possible since such action falls within a strict interpretation of the court's ruling. However, under general principles of EU law, to be a "worker" and so make use of the rules on free movement, a player must be in "effective and genuine" employment in a territory. It is likely that one week would therefore be insufficient whereas a full season's contract would be sufficient.

How will this affect club finances?
Initially, those clubs who rely on transfer fees as a significant source of income will obviously be hard hit. The European Court did not consider this to be a sufficient reason for allowing the continuation of rules which clearly restrict free movement. The court considers that there are alternative ways in which smaller clubs could receive additional revenue, such as a redistribution of income between clubs.

● *Tom Usher is a solicitor specialising in EU law with S J Berwin.*

On the move . . . Gillingham paid £100,000 for Cambridge's Steve Butler yesterday

How Butler made history

The player

UNTIL yesterday Steve Butler's main claim to fame was that he once scored five goals in a match for Cambridge United against Exeter City. Now he has a new reason for notoriety after becoming the last player to be transferred before the Bosman verdict came into effect yesterday morning.

Butler, a journeyman striker who has moved frequently between lower-division clubs, joined Gillingham from Cambridge for £100,000.

Other deals completed were: Chris Coleman, Crystal Palace to Blackburn; Tony Feuer, West Ham to Luton; Noel Whelan, Leeds to Coventry; Wayne Bullimore, Scunthorpe to Bradford; Adrian Heath, Burnley to Sheffield United; Billy Mercer, Sheffield United to Chesterfield.

Second and Third Division clubs in peril

The club

Martin Thorpe

THE Lincoln City chairman John Reames is quite clear about what affect the Bosman ruling will have on smaller clubs: as many as 35 will go out of business.

And as for the English game and the national side: "I think it will be a disaster. I don't think there is a mild way of expressing it: it is as disastrous as that. I have great, great concern about the continuance of the structure of the English game."

Reames, who is also a member of the Football League board, believes smaller clubs would be forced out of business because they would be deprived of the transfer fees that form such a crucial part of their income.

"A very uncertain future, that would be my immediate reaction. Can we survive as a professional club? Certainly not under the present format."

He believes the future depends on how much the English game values the current structure. "If there aren't fundamental changes and the ruling is interpreted exactly as we understand it now, then I see a very bleak future for probably 40 or even 50 professional English clubs, with some forced to go part-time but as many as 35 going out of business."

He cites the problems in one area of his club: the youth system. "Can we afford that in the future when the good youngsters will immediately go off to greener pastures and the boys who don't make it we can't offer contracts to anyway simply because they're not good enough?

"We've just sold a boy, Darren Huckerby, to Newcastle for £500,000, which pays for four years of a youth system. Without that can we really afford a youth system?"

The Bosman ruling will make the big clubs richer and the poor clubs even poorer, he says. And he also dismisses the argument that putting players on long-term contracts will cure the problem.

"We at Lincoln are not looking at the Shearers of the world; we're having to take risk players. But we cannot afford to give risk players long-term contracts. And the more promising players quite frankly will not want to sign a long-term contract with a club of our size because they know the financial rewards of having a shorter-term contract and then a move to a much bigger club."

And as for the end of the foreigner rule, he says he cannot see where the encouragement is going to come from to develop English players in the future. "I can foresee the Premiership within two years being almost 90 per cent foreign-based players."

On average, Third Division Lincoln's trading loss is about £250,000 a year. Reames fears that shortfall cannot be made up without transfer income.

The cash from the Football League's new television deal will not provide enough because most of it will go to First Division clubs. So, Reames says, it will come down to how much bodies such as the Premier League, with whom the Football League met last week, want to protect the grass roots with some form of subsidy.

"I do think that they recognise that there is a need and a requirement for them maybe to put money down into the Football League for development of younger players. I think they've got the foresight to see that."

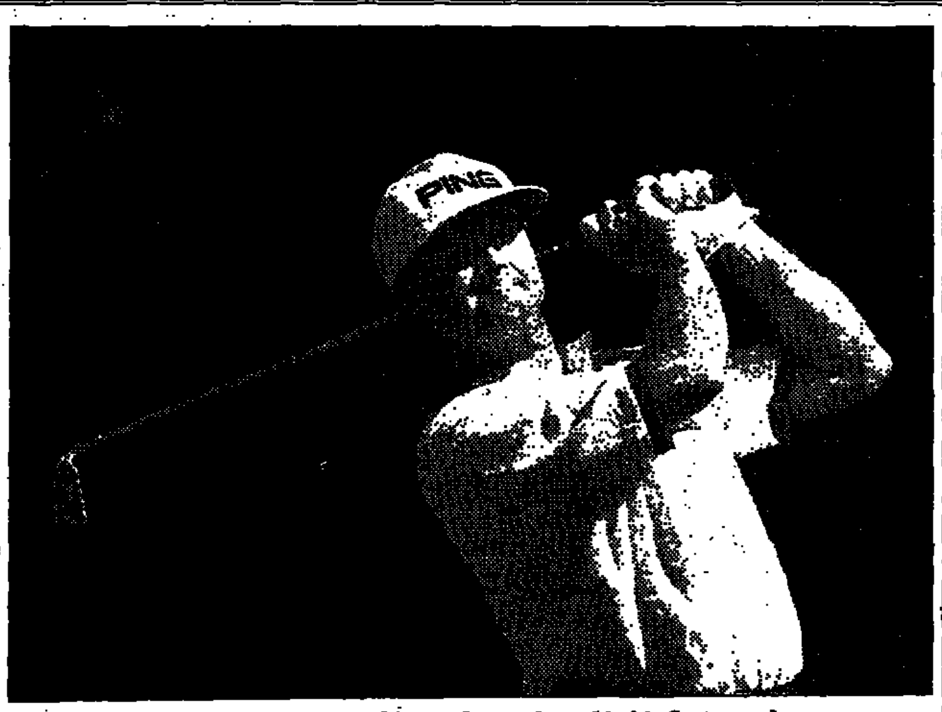
As for tackling the overall problems caused by Bosman, Reames is calling for an urgent meeting of all the relevant bodies running the game in this country. "We need to sit down and talk very seriously, very quickly."

He hopes they can find some way to preserve the game's current structure. "My only hope is that the English game looks at its present system, realises that it has worked very well — it's certainly worked well for players — and invents some national system that may get round some of the more Draconian measures of the Bosman ruling. But I am not optimistic."

Golf

Riley's resolve to stay the course

Michael Britten in Montego Bay



Full swing . . . Riley keeps an eye on his tee-shot at the 3rd in his first round CHARLES KRUPA

THERE was a time when the sight of Wayne Riley in a World Championship field would have signalled the presence of a joker in the pack.

In the early years of his professional career, the stocky Sydneysider rejoiced in the role of "wild colonial boy", too often obscuring his talent in bouts of excessive exuberance. That all changed when his partner Louise presented him with a daughter midway through 1993 and Riley settled down to become a pillar of Surrey's antipodean establishment. He also adopted one of the broom-handle putters pioneered by Sam Torrance and Peter Senior.

Riley underlined his maturity on the PGA European Tour this year when, after claiming four victories Down Under including the 1991 Australian Open, he achieved his first in Britain, defeating Nick Faldo to take the Scottish Open at Carnoustie. He won more than £256,000 in the season and soared from 53rd to 11th in the order of merit.

Riley is still not averse to "cracking a few tinnies" but his celebrations are now controlled and he is no longer dismissed as a supernumerary, despite his 90th place in the world rankings.

An opening 66 for the Johnnie Walker World Championship at the Tryall Club gave him a three-shot first-round lead over Fiji's Vijay Singh, and left the defending champion Ernie Els and the Open champion John Daly trailing by 13 and 14 strokes respectively.

Riley, who was 20th out of 26 when he appeared in the inaugural 1991 event won by Fred Couples, was jubilant. "I see no reason why I cannot stay where I am," he said. "Like everyone else I have earned the right to play here and I know how to win. It is the last golf week of the year and the rewards are enormous. There are only 19 to beat and I'll be trying my heart out."

Daly, who was disqualified on his last appearance here four years ago, professes similar sentiments but currently not the game to match. After opening with an eight and incurring five penalty shots in an 80, he yesterday dispensed with a practice warm-up and predictably was soon foundering in a stiff onshore wind.

He ran up a double-bogey six at the 2nd, where he was almost in the refreshment but with an over-strong approach. He gained a free lift from a drainage pipe under a bush but took four more strokes, all with his putter, to hole out. Then he whipped his drive out of bounds at the long 4th to add another penalty stroke to his tally.

A third six arrived at the 8th and the American limped out in 40, against the 43 he took on the first day. Another double-bogey six at the 10th plunged Daly to 16 over par after only 28 holes.

Cejka wins a place in the sun

Derek Lawrenson on a hard-working man who is determined to enjoy himself

THE Johnnie Walker World Championship may be a hollow title with so many of the leading players missing, but at least one participant is prepared to put a high price on its worth.

When this tournament began four years ago Alexander Cejka was playing in less-exalted surroundings and inferior hotels.

"In 1991 I was staying in hotels that I wouldn't let my dog stay in now. I was miles from every venue and I would watch this event on television and think about the prize money, the setting, and the accommodation. It's a fantastic feeling to be part of it. It makes me feel like I've arrived."

Ten minutes after concluding his first round of 73 in the company of John Daly, Cejka had climbed the 59 steps to the Tryall hotel and was relaxing by the pool with his coach Peter Karz.

While, far below, some players complained about the heat and others about the state of the greens, Cejka ordered himself a soft drink and, laughing uproariously, dived stomach first into the water.

"I need to do some more of this fooling around," he said. "I've played 12 weeks in a row and I'm exhausted. I can't even lay a simple chip up to the hole at the moment I'm so tired. But I was determined to play one more week. Only 25 players got invites to this event. And I was one of them. Twelve months ago I couldn't have dreamed of such a thing. There was no way I could turn it down."

Cejka is acutely aware of the part that miserable nights in dingy hotels have played in his journey to a £300-a-night suite in Jamaica.

"In the late Eighties there was a great surge in Germany to find the next Bernhard Langer," he said. "The other promising Germans were given fast cars and lots of sponsorship and I think they had it too easy. I was given nothing but I always knew I would succeed."

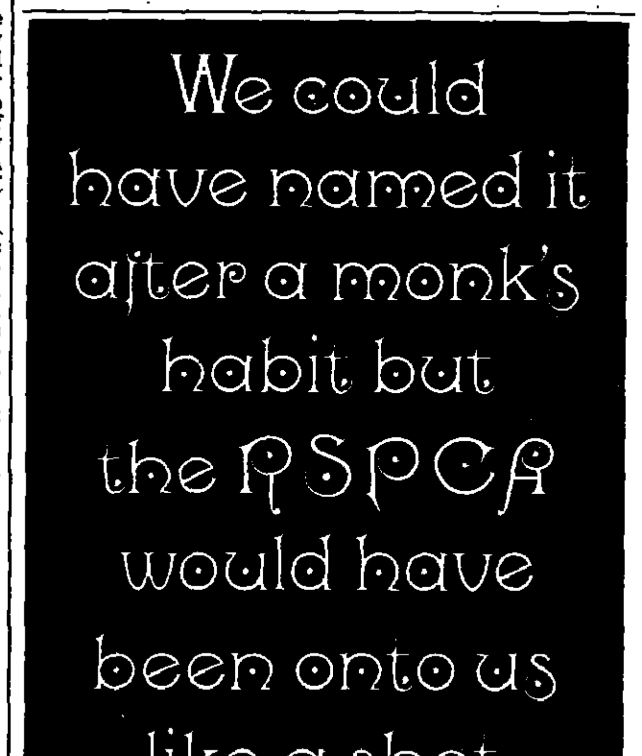
This player with a small wiry frame and a pugilist's face is a figure of some interest here. On a practice ground on Wednesday Lee Janzen was one of several Americans who wandered over to introduce themselves. "Nice playing," Janzen said, and the pair talked for a while about equipment.

Ten minutes later Cejka walked the length of the practice ground to introduce himself to Nick Faldo. "I admired him a lot when I was growing up," Cejka said. Faldo congratulated him on his season and yesterday in a pleasing turn of events they were matched for the first time in competition.

"I'm just learning all the time," Cejka said. "That's what the game is all about. I realise I'm still a small player on the world stage but I want to be ranked one day alongside the Faldos and the Langers.

"When I was younger I liked fast things: cars, motorbikes, skiing. But the Harley Davidson has gone and so has the skiing because I picked up injuries that harmed my golf. I'm trying hard to drive a little slower as well."

Cejka's capacity for hard work is emphasised by his current non-stop schedule that has embraced the world. And he will continue to follow the sun: he plans to spend Christmas in Florida with his grandfather, father and brother, who have flown in from the Czech Republic and whom he has not seen for two months. "If the weather turns bad, though, we'll move on," he said. "Good weather, good hotels. I've earned these things."



Results

Soccer

FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL (Johannesburg): South Africa 0, Germany 0.
TRANSFERS: Premier League: Chris Coleman, C Palace to Blackburn; Anthony Feuer, West Ham to Luton; Noel Whelan, Leeds to Coventry. **Temporary:** Mark Nicolls, Chelsea to Chertsey Tn; Jason Cundy, Tottenham to C Palace; Jamie Barnwell-Edinboro, Coventry to Swansea; Lance Key, Sheff Wed to Hartlepool; Stephen Guinan, Nottm Forest to Darlington. **Endsleigh League:** Wayne Bullimore, Scunthorpe to Bradford C; Stephen Butler, Cambridge Utd to Gillingham; Adrian Heath, Burnley to Sheffield Utd; William Mercer, Sheffield Utd to Chesterfield. **Temporary:** Frederick Barber, Luton to Blackpool; Nicholas Hammond, Plymouth to Reading; Dean Hooper, Swindon to Peterborough; Glynn Hurst, Barnsley to Swansea; Gavin Johnson, Luton to Wigan; David Lucas, Preston to Darlington; Andrew Sussex, Southend to Brentford.

Golf

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Montego Bay): **First round: 66** W Riley (Aus). **69** V Singh (Fiji). **70** L Roberts (US); F Couples (US). **71** B Langer (Ger). **72** D Duval (US); P Mickelson (US); M Calcavecchia (US). **73** A Cejka (Ger). **74** N Faldo (GB). **75** P Azinger (US); B Mayfair (US); L Janzen (US); C Montgomerie (GB). **77** P Senior (Aus); S Torrance (GB). **79** E Els (SA). **80** J Daly (US), T Izawa (Japan). **83** A Forsbrand (Swe).
COOLUM CLASSIC: Second round (Aus unless stated): **138** S Robinson 69, 69; A Gilligan 67, 71. **139** S Leaney 72, 67. **140** J Evans 71, 69; S Alker (NZ) 70, 70; B Jackson (Eng) 70, 70. **141** R Swanson 73, 68; N Smith 72, 69; S Appleby 67, 74; L Tinkler 71, 70. **142** G Stratford 71, 71; G Dodd 68, 74; N Henning (SA) 74, 68; T Power 71, 71; M Long (NZ) 68, 74; S Bouvier 72, 70; P Powell (NZ) 72, 70; M Peterson 72, 70; P Gow 70, 72; S Conran 75, 67; M Roberts 73, 69. **143** P Lonard 71, 72; T Murphy 73, 70; D Cole 73, 70; P Zidar 71, 72. **144** E Boult (NZ) 73, 71; M Allen 74, 70; E Droop 75, 69; D Hill 74, 70; J Senior 68, 76; M Clayton 73, 71; N Kerry 72, 72.

Alpine Skiing

WORLD CUP (St Anton, Aut): **Women's downhill:** 1, K Seizinger (Ger) 2min 6.88sec; 2, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 2.07.12; 3, A Meissnitzer (Aut) 2.07.29; 4, H Indh (US) 2.07.33; 5, I Kostner (It) 2.07.34; 6, P Street (US) 2.07.38. **Standings:** 1, Seizinger 180pts; 2, Street 140; 3, Zurbriggen 102; 4, Meissnitzer 86; 5, Kostner 85; 6, W Zelenskaja (Rus) 84. **Overall:** 1, Seizinger 360pts; 2, Meissnitzer 268; 3, M Ertl (Ger) 267; 4, A Wachter (Aut) 193; 5, H Zeller-Baehler (Switz) 192; 6, Street 187.

Swimming

WINTER CHALLENGE (Sheffield): **Men: 200m freestyle:** 1, A Clayton (C of Leeds) 1min 46.98sec; 2, P Palmer 1.48.28; 3, S Mellor (C of Birmingham) 1.48.33. **1500m freestyle:** 1, I Wilson (C of Leeds) 14.40.69; 2, G Smith (Stockport Metro) 14.49.71; 3, G Hudson (Portsmouth Northsea) 15.21.72. **50m butterfly:** 1, M Foster (C of Cardiff) 23.45; 2, J Gojkovic (C of Sheffield) 24.72; 3, J Salter (C of Birmingham) 24.96. **50m backstroke:** 1, N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 24.88; 2, M Harris (W Forest) 25.16; 3, S Handley (C of Sheffield) 26.21. **4x100m medley:** 1, C of Cardiff 3.43.92; 2, C of Leeds 3.47.69; 3, C of Swansea 3.48.79. **Women: 200m freestyle:** 1, K Brienesse (Neth) 1min 59.43sec; 2, C Geurts (Neth) 1.59.58; 3, A Bennett (Nova Centurion) 2.00.13. **100m breaststroke:** 1, J King (W Forest) 1.09.09; 2, M Hardiman (C of Birmingham) 1.10.69; 3, S Brownsdon (C of Coventry) 1.10.95. **200m backstroke:** 1, J Deakins (C of Coventry) 2.12.31; 2, E Tattam (Portsmouth Northsea) 2.12.91; 3, R Sherrington (Portsmouth Northsea) 2.14.01. **400m individual medley:** 1, H Cerna (Cz) 4.38.89sec; 2, L Findlay (Wycombe Dist) 4.40.85; 3, H Slatter (Warrington Warriors) 4.48.44.

Basketball

NBA: Toronto 100, Indiana 102; Atlanta 108, Chicago 127; NY 94, Denver 103; Dallas 111, San Antonio 126; Portland 116, Charlotte 109; LA Clippers 89, Miami 84.

Equestrianism

OLYMPIA INTERNATIONAL C'SHIPS: Holly Accumulator: 1, Sarcelle de Sisse (H Godignon, Fr) 38pts, 37.23sec; 2, Rainbow de Trelon (H Bourdy, Fr) 36, 37.44; 3, Athos du Massu (R-Y Bost, Fr) 36, 38.68. **Christmas Stocking Stakes:** 1, Avion (L Beerbaum, Ger) clear 49.10sec; 2, Elegast (C Martinez, Sp) clr 51.13; 3, Comex (W Funnell, GB) clr 53.04.

Cricket

FIRST LIMITED-OVERS INTERNATIONAL (Peshawar): England A 225-5 (N Hussain 100no). Pakistan A 224-6 (Shahid Anwar 100no): England A won by one run.
ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL (Dunedin): Pakistan 169-9 (50 overs; Ramiz Raja 35). New Zealand 169 (47.4 overs; R Twose 59). Pakistan won by 20 runs.
WORLD SERIES (Adelaide): **Limited overs competition:** West Indies 160-6 (S Campbell 47, Arjuna Ranatunga 2-24). Sri Lanka 161-6 (Aravinda De Silva 46). Sri Lanka won by four wickets.
SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Third day: Melbourne: Victoria 430-6 dec and 160-8 (G Vimpani 61). Tasmania 292 (J Cox 99, D Hills 54; Harvey 3-46).
CASTLE CUP: First day: Cape Town: Free State 247 (75.4 overs; L Wilkinson 48, H Dippenaar 48, H Bakkes 43; Pringle 5-89). Western Province 59-1. **Paarl:** Boland 209 (88.3 overs; T Lazard 89no; Fourie 5-46). Border 38-2. **Johannesburg:** Northern 131 (43.3 overs; Jack 4-24) and 31-1. Transvaal 130 (38 overs; Bryson 4-16).

Ice Hockey

NHL: Boston 6, Florida 4; Philadelphia 4, Tampa Bay 0; Washington 4, NY Islanders 3 (ot); St Louis 3, Calgary 3 (ot); San Jose 1, Toronto 4.

Sport in brief

Tennis

Steffi Graf has been ruled out of next month's Australian Open after undergoing an operation for a chipped bone in her left foot. The 26-year-old world No.1, who had a similar operation on her right foot in 1993, won her fourth Australian title 11 months ago.

Hockey

England's Andy Humphrey, a member of Cannock's National League side, today returns to old club Hull, who bid to reach the English Indoor finals for the fourth successive year, *writes Pat Rowley*. Hull must finish at least second in the North Indoor League at Peterlee to qualify for the national preliminary round.

Soccer

Brussels will host its first European final since the Heysel disaster in 1985 when the European Cup Winners' Cup is decided there on May 8. Ibrox Park lost out to the King Baudouin Stadium when Uefa discovered an international medical conference was being held in Glasgow on the same day.

Swimming

Mark Foster set a new world short-course record for 50m butterfly of 23.45sec in Sheffield yesterday, slicing 0.10sec off the record he had set in same pool in February.

Motor Sport

Carlos Sainz, the two-time world rally champion who lost out to Colin McRae this year, is to rejoin Ford from Subaru.

CRICKET: South Africa fight back in Durban to seize the initiative, page 9

SOCCER: Nation-by-nation breakdown for the Euro '96 draw, page 10

SportsGuardian

AN OBSCURE BELGIAN PLAYER WINS HIS CASE TO PUT THE GAME UNDER THREAT

Martin Thorpe and **Stephen Bates** on the court decision that has ended the current transfer system and angered Uefa's president

Chaos after Bosman ruling

FOOTBALL was plunged into chaos yesterday when the European Court of Justice upheld the Bosman ruling, which bans transfer fees for out-of-contract players and allows clubs to play unlimited EC foreigners.

For not merely did the game fail in its quest to get the court's initial judgment overturned or watered down, it was left utterly confused about what the court's ruling in Luxembourg means in practice. Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, said: "The whole verdict will create a mess."

He was particularly referring to the imbalance that will be created between EU and non-EU countries (the UK has four football associations but is viewed as one country). But for those clubs with the more important task of fathoming exactly how the ruling will affect them, there are two crucial areas of doubt: does the ruling take effect immediately, and does the transfer-fee ban apply only to moves between countries or also to moves within a country?

The waters are further muddied by the fact that while the court yesterday outlawed the present rules, the European game's governing body Uefa has yet to devise replacements. Which leaves a regulatory vacuum. So clubs seeking to take immediate advantage of the ruling must decide whether to risk defying the old rules now or wait for the new ones to be put into place, perhaps in the new year; the EU is unlikely to give them much longer.

One area which seems relatively clear is the use of EU players. Theoretically, from today, clubs can field as many in their team as they like, instead of three. "Whether the day will come where we see 11 non-British players in a single team we will have to wait and see," said the FA's chief executive Graham Kelly.

As for the transfer of out-of-contract players — the regulation regarding in-contract players remains unchanged — the ruling is not much clearer. The court has based its decision on Article 48 of the Treaty of Rome which applies only to cross-border transfers and the movement of out-of-contract foreigners within a foreign country.

"The ruling should not be a cause for panic or over-reaction," said the Premier League's chief executive Rick Parry, "particularly since, as we forecast, the judgment may only apply to transfers which involve a player moving between countries within the European Union."

However, Karel Van Miert, the EU commissioner responsible for competition, disagreed. He yesterday warned soccer authorities that he expects them also to implement the transfer-fee ban internally for all players. If they do not they will fall foul of Clause 85 of the Treaty of Rome, which is designed to stop organisations banding together to fix prices or prevent competition.

Johansson intends to seek clarification of the ruling "within days" and Uefa is understood already to be holding discussions over a new set of transfer rules that would satisfy the commission.

This could include a compensation scheme to replace the transfer fee, in which a club would be paid for the time and effort they had put into developing a player.

The governing bodies of the English game are also understood to be seeking ways of preventing an out-of-contract English player moving to a foreign club for, say, a week then returning to another English club just to avoid the payment of a fee. But generally the ruling will bring lower transfer fees all round.

Kelly reacted to the ruling by urging: "Don't panic. I hope there will be a period of calm reflection, with Uefa and players' unions across Europe sitting down and negotiating sensible changes to the transfer rules, so the wider interests of the game as a whole can be protected."

The European Court's 12 judges took only two minutes to uphold the Advocate General's recommendation. The former Belgium footballer at the centre of it all, Jean-Marc Bosman, was immediately submerged in a heaving crowd of cameras and cameramen.

The saga had begun when the 30-year-old took his club Liege to court after they refused him the right to a transfer and chained him to a reduced contract of £600 a month. Yesterday he ended it by saying: "I have got to the top of the mountain and I am now very tired."

Reaction, page 11

Winning team . . . Bosman enjoys victory with two of his lawyers outside the European court in Luxembourg yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID PIERSON

Anfield affair puts spring in game's step

David Lacey

WEDNESDAY night at Anfield was as cold as Orlando had been stifling. Yet as an example of the way football should be staged and watched, the European Championship play-off between the Republic of Ireland and Holland shared a common bond with those happy sunny days of the 1994 World Cup, when even George Orwell might have seen that international sport need not necessarily be war without the shooting.

True, a draw for the 1998 World Cup qualifiers which finds Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia all in one group would appear to be doing its best to prove the wisdom of Orwell's words. And when otherwise solid, respectable and middle-aged inhabitants of the Low Countries have been seen swapping punches before matches between Holland and Belgium, who have been paired in another, it would be wrong to assume that England's support has a monopoly on aggressive chauvinism.

Nevertheless, Anfield was an encouraging pointer for Euro '96 because it allayed the understandable, if slightly alarmist, fears that followed the abandonment of England's match against the Irish in Dublin 10 months ago after a riot by English fans.

The Football Association's argument that the trouble had been instigated by a conspiratorial handful of right-wing extremists, and might have been avoided had the Dublin police heeded English warnings, could not prevent a shadow of doubt being cast over the first major international football tournament being staged in this country since 1966.

Mere words cannot obliterate from the mind's eye those bleak TV images of seats and stanchions being hurled from an upper tier at Lansdowne Road on to unprotected heads below. And when the cameras picked out a young Irish boy gazing at the thuggery with a look of utter horror on his face one could understand why there were those who felt that the European Championship should go elsewhere.

The FA and the organisers of Euro '96 should now consider themselves heavily in debt to the Irish and Dutch fans. For on Wednesday the former showed the footballing world how to accept defeat with a smile while the latter again demonstrated that, though hooliganism has been a problem in Holland for years, it is seldom exported.

At Anfield the support for both teams was deafening yet never was a discourteous word heard. "You'll never beat the Irish," sang the wearers of the green, but they must have worn wry smiles at half-time when the PA system played the old Beatles number Help. Crucially, however, Irish eyes were still smiling when Patrick Kluivert's second goal hit the back of Alan Kelly's net.

The match was a trifle one-sided but the occasion was uplifting. The Republic have not made it this time because their ageing team were not good enough. But it is a pity Euro '96 will be denied their supporters in any great number.

Happily, Lennart Johansson, the Swedish president of Uefa and would-be president of Fifa, has denied implying that England and Scotland would be kept apart in tomorrow's draw.

This, if it were motivated by anything other than football politics, would have been a slur on those Scottish supporters who in a succession of World Cups and European Championships abroad have shown that a considerable intake of alcohol need not absolve a football fan of his responsibilities as a member of the human race.

THE hope must now be that those hooligan elements who surfaced in Dublin will be policed into obscurity next summer — and that German wannabes do not go for the title.

On Wednesday the new Anfield, palatial and all-seated, safe and comfortable, began the process which, it is hoped, will complete the rehabilitation of the English game and its following in the eyes of the football world. Liverpool FC, a name linked with tragedy, set an impressive example.

I have become known as 'the female Casanova', a title I awarded myself after clocking up a good many one-night stands. Sex, good, bad or indifferent was the subject of many of my poems. Casanova never settled down; but as his female disciple, I have decided to get married. Today.

Fiona Pitt-Kethley

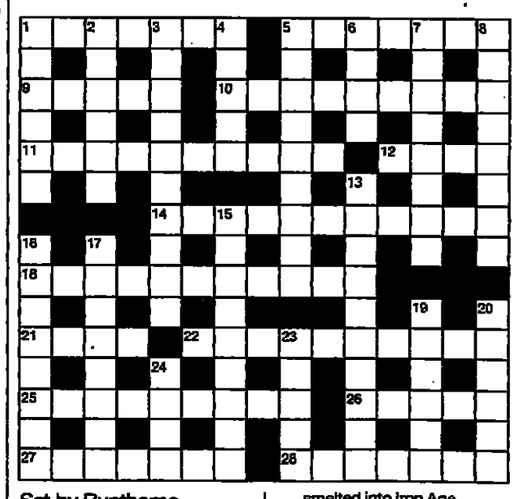
Outlook page 17

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,526

Indispensable to all crossword addicts! A copy of the brand new Collins Thesaurus, the ultimate browser's wordfinder, will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,526, 6 Bushey Hall Road, Bushey, Herts., WD2 2EA, by first post on Friday, or by fax to 01923 225885. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Wednesday December 27.

Name .....

Address .....



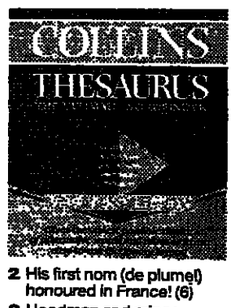
Set by Bunthorne

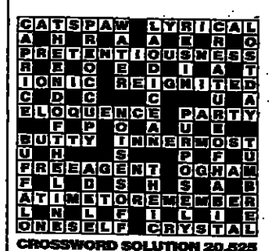
Across

1 The last person left without a friend in Oz (7)
5 Painter left, gave up work; returned in demand (7)
9 One not yet wise enough to throw in the towel (5)
10 Runs courses in Lakeland ecology (4-5)
11 Discomposed if neutrals contend (2,1,7)
12 Shakespeare, son of the Hebrew daughter (4)
14 Doors man, largely immortal — right ? — is on after justice (3,8)
18 Thus English ore has smelted into Iron Age acccommodation (5,6)
21 Osprey assuredly bearing its young (4)
22 Self-declared genius confounded by Queensbury rules (5,5)
25 Little sparrow: one fated to suffer hip replacement (5,4)
26 The dog that did not bark by order? (5)
27 Masculine Chinese set out for Mao's bathing water (7)
28 As irresponsible as Boyle before enlightenment ? (7)

Down

1 Nocturnal scorer about to offer a lift (6)
2 His first nom (de plume!) honoured in France! (6)
3 Hoodman and minor evangelist (6,4)
4 They're floating right behind and coming second (5)
5 Having a dust up with refined lovers at odds (9)
6,7,16 Where 18 (terminally) 1,2,14,22 & 25 Theme? Recce Parisi Eye "La Catastrophe"! (4,4,8)
8 Incumbent on camp conservationists (8)
13 Abandoned woman going to pot? (5,5)
15 A dubious drop of what you, or Phoebe fancy (9)
16 See 6
17 Haydn's six-day special (8)
19 Raised edge of pastry case: turnover say? (7)
20 Watery grave yielding one up (6)
23 28 conversely doesn't begin to be beyond words (5)
24 An attempt to take the lead (4)





CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,525

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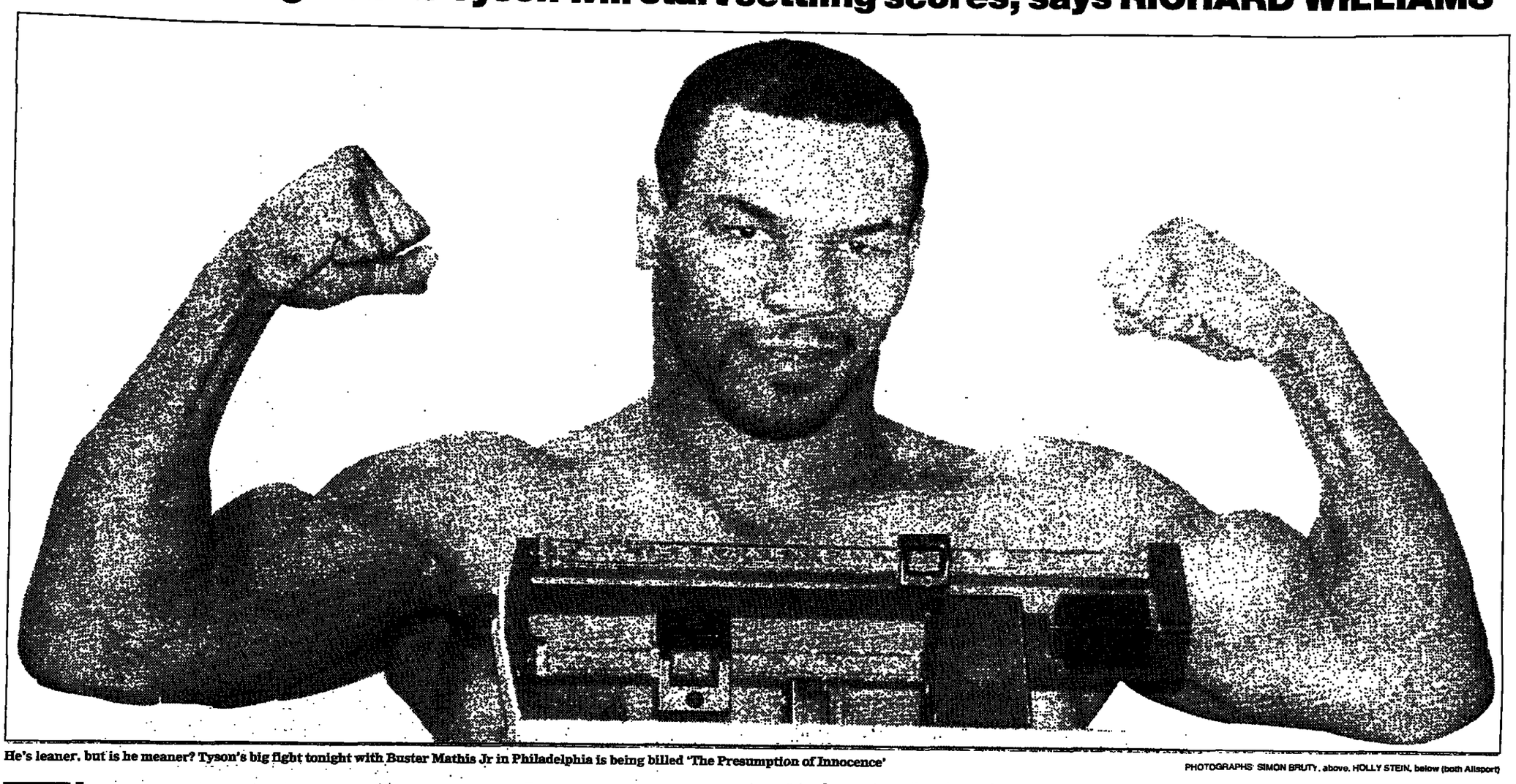
15 OTHER LIVES Trifling with the French truffle gatherers

17 INTERVIEW The nation's doc on the risks we must take with our health

21 MONEY Will cheaper loans kick-start the housing market?

24 FINANCE Shady share dealers out of control

He came out of jail a Muslim with a Mao tattoo and an attitude that infuriated white America. Tonight Mike Tyson will start settling scores, says RICHARD WILLIAMS



He's leaner, but is he meaner? Tyson's big fight tonight with Buster Mathis Jr in Philadelphia is being billed 'The Presumption of Innocence'

PHOTOGRAPHS: SIMON BRUTY, above, HOLLY STEIN, below (both Allsport)

The recasting of Iron Mike

SHE is 24 years old, 5ft 4in tall, weighs nine-and-a-half stones, and has a record of 33 wins, two defeats and two draws, with 22 knockouts. She's a coalminer's daughter from West Virginia, and a qualified teacher. Tonight in Philadelphia she gets her big break, fighting a German girl on the bottom of a bill whose headliners will reach a live television audience of millions. So I asked her, does she have a problem with the idea of sharing the bill with a man convicted of sexual violence against a woman?

"No, I don't," Christy Martin said brightly, shaking her long brown hair, which is held by a sort of samurai headband when she fights but is otherwise styled in the kind of feathercut that you only find these days on heavy-metal drummers or girls from West Virginia. "Of course, I wasn't on the jury, but I believe in Mike Tyson. Juries have been wrong before. And since it's been over, you know, a lot of the jurors have come back and said, 'Oh well, if we had known all this information beforehand, we would probably not have convicted.' She'd done it before, Desiree Washington. She'd accused somebody of rape in high school. In my heart, I just don't feel that Mike Tyson was guilty."

Was she always a fan of his?

"Always. And to be on this bill is a dream come true."

And all that Loretta Lynn stuff in the publicity blurb about West Virginia and coal miners, is that for real?

"It's true, all true. Definitely. My grandfather, my dad, my brother, they all worked in the coal mines. I'm from a town of maybe a hundred people."

Now she lives with Jim Martin, her husband and trainer, in Orlando, Florida, where she was a schoolteacher until pro boxing and Don King took over. "I will teach again. Well, maybe. Right now, teaching school is probably more dangerous than boxing. You have middle-school kids coming to school with guns. Middle-school! We're talking about, what, 12 years old, and they're killing each other."

Mike Tyson, too, was carrying a gun before he was 12 years old, running with a gang called the Jolly Stompers in the bleak Brooklyn streets. His father, a construction worker, had left home when he was two. It's said that in the winters, the remaining members of the family — his mother, his older brother, his sister and himself — slept with their clothes on, and that Tyson's teachers sometimes gave him shoes. He became an expert pickpocket, a lookout during cornerstore hold-ups, and a bagman for his gang.

But there was more to him than that. He couldn't read or write, so he raised pigeons as a way of giving expression to his inarticulate dreams. He was small, and he lisped, and the other kids called him "Fairy Boy" until one day somebody killed one of his pigeons and he fought back and discovered his vocation.

By the time he was 21 he had become the richest sportsman on Earth, paid $20 million for a single night's work by a public which saw in him a blend of Sonny Liston's brute savagery and Muhammad Ali's prowling invulnerability. This bought him houses and cars and new friends, and it also appeared to grant a licence to the predatory sexuality which eventually brought him down.

That sexuality may have been not much different from the kind displayed by all sorts and conditions of men. When they are members of the MCC or the New York Stock Exchange, their behaviour tends to get the benefit of the doubt. Like, you know, what *did* happen to that Kennedy boy? But since Tyson is part of a new culture of commercial celebrity, the Murdoch-driven infotainment culture, he became subject to the demand that heroes must fall — and only sometimes rise again — in order to keep the plot lively and the pages turning. By the time Desiree Washington called the cops in the summer of 1991, he had already fallen in the ring, when the unheralded Buster Douglas took advantage of his hubristic carelessness and decked him in Tokyo. The trial and the prison sentence seemed like part of the same tragic parabola.

You don't have to buy all the way into the stories of prisoner number 922335 blotting up the complete works of Marx and Machiavelli in his cell at the Indiana Youth Centre to believe that something interesting goes on in Tyson's mind. So what was behind the blankness of his eyes during the interminable midweek press conference to promote tonight's fight against Buster Mathis Jr, the second episode of his comeback, a fight promoted by Don King under the slogan "Presumption of Innocence"? Contempt for his fellow man, to judge from his stony treatment of questions. His mood had not changed 24 hours later at the weigh-in, when he stripped off the sweatshirt with "XXL: Property of Allah" printed across the chest and stood on the scales in white briefs and socks, staring impassively across the room, over the heads of the hucksters and hangers-on.

Tyson couldn't read or write, was small, and he lisped – the other kids called him 'Fairy Boy'

"Oooooo, LOOKATTHAT!" A squeal worthy of Little Richard cut through the babble. Don King, his eyes and braces popping, his hair standing on end, had grabbed the microphone as Tyson silently displayed his impressively firm musculature, the now-famous tattoos of Mao Tse-Tung and Arthur Ashe visible on each bicep. King was off into his trademark riff, part-medicine show, part-Pentecostal church, unstoppable, hilarious, ludicrous, impervious to decorum or syntax or truth.

"Oooooo! See Tyson there! Cut in stone! Cut in STONE! Adonis! Oooooo! That's awesome Mike Tyson! Vintage Mike Tyson! Better than he ever was before! Oooooo! I get to shakin' and tremblin' just to see it! Ohhh, it's a moment of joy in the boxing world! Tyson is ready! Tuned like a Stradivarius violin! Ready to play! It's fight time! Here in Philly! The city of brotherly and sisterly love! It's gonna be a great evening of boxing! On Fox TV, the place to be! Bringing it to you in exciting drama and giving you information that you DESERVE TO KNOW objectively and fairly and impartially! We're gonna watch Mike Tyson take on Buster Mathis and illuminate the world with the explosive punch again! The Presumption of Innocence! And we have some T-shirts that's gonna be great memorabilia! There's only a limited amount and we want you all to go out and get one! There ain't that many so you'd better get yours because they'll be cryin' for 'em later on! Oooooo! The Presumption of Innocence! YESSSS!"

Curiously, the innocence in question is not Tyson's but King's. This fight, originally scheduled for Las Vegas in November, was switched to Atlantic City after Tyson broke the thumb of his right hand. The reason it is now taking place in a Philadelphia arena rather than a boardwalk casino is that the New Jersey Gambling Commission would not license King to promote the fight, given that he is awaiting retrial in New York on an insurance fraud charge.

Philadelphia, an old-fashioned fight town, welcomed the chance to hold its first big night of boxing in many years, although its citizens have been less easily persuaded. A scepticism bred of the memory of Tyson's first comeback fight, his farcical 89-second demolition of the unknown Peter McNeeley in Vegas last August, has combined with pre-Christmas economic imperatives to ensure that no more than half of the Spectrum's 18,000 seats, priced from $50 to $500, will be occupied tonight.

Once this became clear, King used the slack to improve his image by giving 3,000 tickets away to the disabled and underprivileged. He is also giving 1,000 turkeys away to poor families, although the opinion among Philly's boxing fans is that the biggest turkey of all will be the fight.

Murdoch's Fox TV network is paying $5 million to screen it, against the $25 million received for the McNeeley bout. King accepted the financial penalty because Tyson, on the tortuous route back to reclaiming the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world, simply needs the action. "Money is not our goal here," King proclaimed. "Our goal is preparation." The real money, of course, will come later. Anyway, $5 million — or whatever is left for Tyson after expenses, and after his handlers have taken their cut — is not too shabby a recompense, given the apparent scale of the task.

"What we need is that round, or two rounds or three rounds, whichever it may be," King continued, and most observers believe that a single round will be enough to see off Mathis, the 25-year-old son of a man who once went the distance with Ali. "Buster Mathis has the opportunity to capture lightning in a jug and to make history," King said, but Mathis's unbeaten record has not been enough to save him from a scorn that was intensified when he bashfully refused to take his shirt off at the weigh-in, giving the firm impression that he had something flabby to hide.

The one thing Mathis can't possibly be is as bad as people say he is. Nevertheless, only a unique vulnerability to boxers called Buster could jeopardise Tyson's chances tonight, and thereby hinder King's gradual resumption of control of the heavyweight division. This is a resource so infinitely lucrative, thanks to the interest of casinos and TV, that it must be like winning the lottery every week.

The former boss of the Cleveland numbers racket is a man who likes to give the impression of conducting his business through a loudhailer. It's a brilliant trick. While people are laughing at King, at the bluster and the absurd locutions, at the mangling of Shakespeare and the Bible and the entire history of world, the real business is being done in whispers. Which, as much as reasons of his self-esteem, is why he is followed everywhere by two silent, black-clad men big enough to block out the light in a hotel atrium.

When Tyson lost his crown and then went to jail, King lost his grip on the division. Two years ago, he was finished. "Zero," he said. "Out of business." Now he either promotes or co-promotes the

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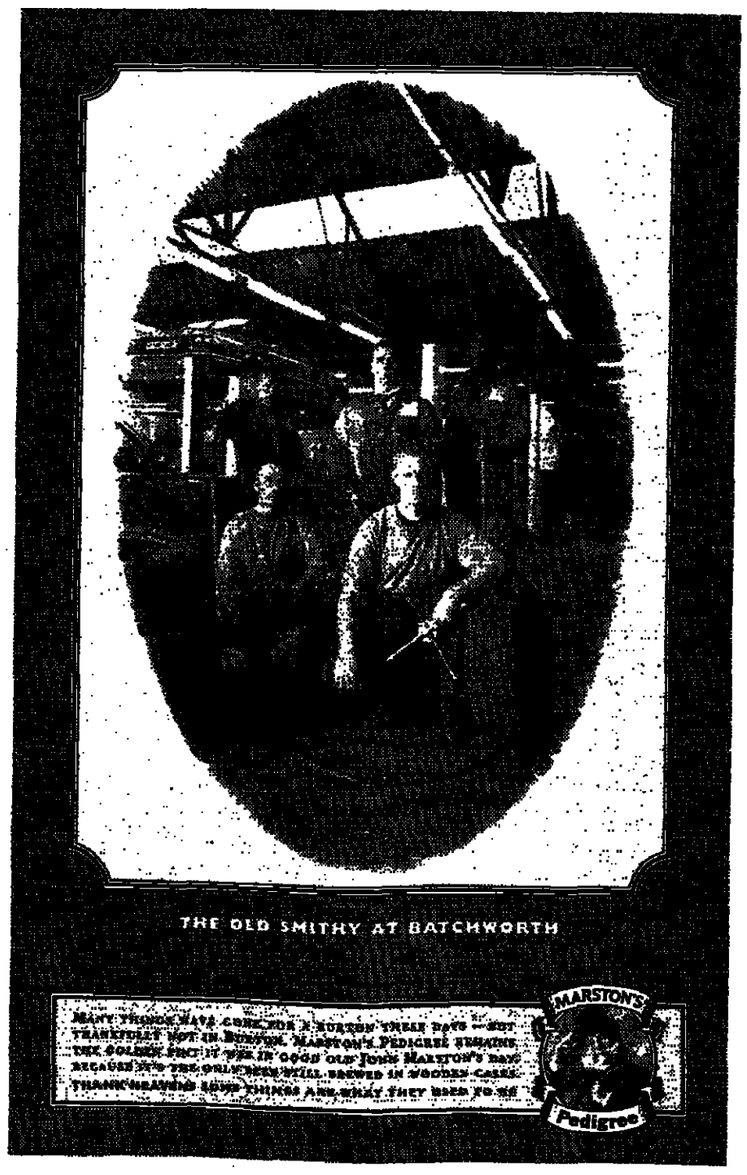


The real Europe debate

THE MADRID SUMMIT agreed yesterday with Confucius. Rectifying the name is an absolute must for the sage who seeks to practise good government. It is no idle exercise reaching agreement upon the correct name for the single currency of the future. Choosing the right term, the Master would have said, means that the actual coin is more likely to get into our pockets. The Euro it is. That's OK, then.

John Major was right to complain that there is a touch of Alice in Wonderland about the proceedings in Madrid but it goes rather further than the name which, in a dynamic aside, he called "uninspiring". Will future historians look back on Madrid as the moment when the locomotive of European monetary unity opened the throttle, not to halt again until it reached the terminus, or will they note with mild amusement how it ground to a halt at the next red light? The decision to head down this track, we should remember, was taken on both political and economic grounds — a strength if they continue to be of equal weight but not if they get out of balance. Without challenging monetary union as a goal, the EU heads of state might have permitted themselves a quiet and rational discussion as to whether a critical mass of their number would exist in time to launch the transition on January 1, 1999. Instead, they confirmed the date, allowing Spain to claim "a triumph for the EU", but deferred discussion as to who, if anyone, will be ready for it. It is no secret that officials fear the consequences of any formal delay. This, it is said, could sap the project's credibility and weaken the resolve of member states to meet the criteria in time. Yet the real argument against hesitation, as everyone knows, stems from the perceived need for a European political order which binds and is built around Germany and (less certainly) France. Here the arguments go far beyond the modest concerns of the average pro-European Guardian reader who filled in our recent questionnaire. They are enthusiastic for more practical reasons. How pleasant not to have to change pounds into francs into lira and back again! Or, less self-interestedly, they see a single currency as likely to end speculation and ease the task of business. These days very few passengers on the Eurobus take seriously the proposition that there is an unavoidable choice between a German Europe and a European Germany. The residual image of a potentially domineering state has faded, interestingly, just when a united Germany has begun to acquired the territorial and economic power to dominate if not domineer.

Though the Maastricht treaty was not concluded until after German reunification, a good deal of the motivation still stemmed from the earlier perspective of a smaller "Europe". The continent is now dramatically different: it has become a larger unity, but at the same time more diverse, creating an entirely new pressure for broadening — which will be on Madrid's agenda today. There is a whole range of new problems spanning this larger Europe to which it can be argued that the Maastricht project may be tangential. It is not just an accident of timing which has elevated three European stories this week high above the Madrid summit in the perceptions of most news editors — and most readers. The popular challenge to a French economic policy not unconnected with the monetarist agenda... the problematic patching up of Bosnia... the total leap into Russia's electoral unknown.

These substantial issues do not of course entitle us to downsize automatically the EU project, but they do require those arguing for it not to pretend that the debate is over. Nor is it enough for Kenneth Clarke to deliver a British shrug to the effect that it is probably going to happen while secretly hoping it won't. There is an argument in favour but, as our European editor recently reminded us, it is an argument based on "the cause of a united, democratic and regionally decentralised Europe which enshrines common citizenship and democratic rights". If the EU leaders in Madrid and after could rephrase their concerns in these terms, then the top deck of the Eurobus might see a livelier debate. It is about huge questions of Europe's future, not about the Euro in our pocket.

Extracting the digits

WELCOME to the new age of digital television in which dozens — and eventually over 500 — new channels will transmit programmes with cinema-style definition and CD-quality sound. Yesterday the Heritage Secretary Virginia Botomley did something that eluded her at the health department: she published a blueprint for the future without upsetting any of the players involved. When politicians do that, it generally forbodes an unworkable compromise. This time, the Government may well have achieved the right balance between the permissiveness needed to enable international firms to grow and the need for domestic restrictions to prevent monopoly situations.

Make no mistake, this is a very important bill. Britain has a chance to be a world leader in the exploitation of digital television, just as we are in cable television and mobile phones. But with cable television, the Government used competition law to create a market which has been developed by overseas (mainly American) companies. With digital television there are a number of domestic corporations — including the BBC and the independent television companies — which could seize the opportunity to expand into world media companies. But will they muff it? Since the first round of liberalisation, both Granada and Carlton have expanded their domestic power bases through take-overs, but there is scant sign of them developing into international companies (except in hotels).

This time the BBC is delighted to get a whole "multiplex" enabling it to run up to six digital channels including Pay-TV through its commercial arm, BBC World Wide. The independent companies are happy that the two-licence limit has been dropped in favour of a maximum audience share of 15 per cent, enabling more regional television companies to be taken over. For all Channel Four's moans, it must be secretly pleased that the Government will revise the levy it pays to independent companies enabling it to keep more of its own revenue. Rupert Murdoch's News International was content because there were no curbs in its known areas of expansion, while plans to establish a ceiling on total market share have been put on the backburner. The Government has also — partially — bitten the bullet of setting a timescale for a decision on ending analogue transmissions.

But is there any demand out there for what is only a qualitative improvment on what we receive now? The cost of digital decoders could be £500 at first though it is expected — as with mobile phones — that ways will be found to subsidise them. If British companies rise to the challenge then it could provide lots of new business, not just in Britain, but in the rest of the world, as the ripples of the digital revolution spread. Recent experience makes it doubtful that indigenous companies will rise to the occasion. But this time, at least, they can't say the Government didn't try to help.

Keep the monsters in their box

The West is in a perpetual state of panic over the 'wrong' people getting elected, says MARTIN WOOLLACOTT. Illustration by PETER TILL

ON the map of democracy the words "Here Be Monsters" are inscribed in more and more places. These days we are less concerned about democracy being cut off by coup or rebellion than about the two-headed calves and other deformed creatures to which it threatens to give birth by the normal processes of the ballot box.

In almost every country there are parties whose victory in elections is regarded as both possible and disastrous. Polls have become fever charts, studied to see whether Islamic fundamentalism, Flemish fascism, resurgent communism, or Hindu chauvinism is about to carry off the patient. This weekend we will be hanging on the results of the Russian parlimentary election, hoping that the expected communist success will not be too great or that there will be compensation in the form of a collapse in support for last year's top nutter, Zhirinovsky. Hardly a month goes by without an election where the principal concern is not that voters might be intimidated but that the people might freely elect, under impeccable democratic conditions, the "wrong" party.

The amount of time and effort spent by western nations, far from immune themselves to such tendencies, in trying to prevent the "wrong" people getting into power is well illustrated by the European Parliament's decision this week to approve the customs union with Turkey. Basically, we want to bribe the Turks into not voting for Refah, the Islamist party, in this month's elections. The vote went through in spite of the fact that the Turks have found no solution to their Kurdish problem other than military suppression. Europe's capacity to influence Ankara's policy on the Kurds will probably now diminish. In effect, we decided keeping Refah out was more important than what is happening to the Kurds.

The combination of economic aid, often as a preliminary to pulling a country into a full relationship with the world economy, and a readiness to look the other way at the bloody bashing of insurgents is a typical one. It is seen, too, in the case of Russia, with Chechenia. The trouble with this model is that it does not seem to work. The lesson of Russia is that, in spite of repeated good intentions, the West never puts together more than a modicum of aid, and that in any case joining the world economy is a disruptive process that produces dangerous politics. The losers in economic change, the argument goes, then vote for dangerous parties. But this is not satisfactory either, leading as it does to the not much more effective idea that if the losers can be identified and compensated, then that will prevent the worst outcomes. The conclusion must be that economic and military instruments on their own are poor tools in trying to shape democracies.

Everything suggests that those who vote for the "wrong" parties are men and women in search of meaning. They are not immune to economic inducements or military coercion, but they go elsewhere politically when the mainstream system loses its magic and its capacity to include all of the population in its endeavours. One Russian commentator, trying to explain the behaviour of the voters, spoke of the need for "myth" in politics. It can be argued that the trouble with democratic politics as they are now is mainly that they have shrunk. The bureaucracy, the political class, and the military and security institutions tend to become a corporate group offering and buying services and bidding, at elections, for contract renewal. They trade in the market place like other "players".

The state in the process loses its mystical qualities and established political parties lose their grand colours. In some countries government is on the way to privatising itself. In others, it may never have achieved a universal status. But, whatever the particular detail, when government is just an "interest", people will be attracted to dramatic alternatives that emphasise the wholeness of peoples and religions, and their historic missions. How much falsity, nonsense, and hatred of others can dwell in this dimension we have reason to know. This does not alter the fact that the process begins with an inadequacy in existing government and existing parties. It is also true that the process is not easily influenced by money or by force unless they are part of a larger resurgence.

Wherever government is shrinking because a country has embraced the recipes of economic liberalisation — dismantling protection, privatising state enterprises, cutting government expenditure — the alternatives that spring up almost always have a anti-foreign edge. In India, for instance, the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party to a point where it has a theoretical chance of power after general elections next spring coincides almost exactly with the period of liberalisation. It is a party which has derived its strength from championing Hindu India and from an anti-Muslim and an anti-foreign line. Students of the Indian political scene see the BJP is a fraud in at least two senses. It is not as anti-foreign as it pretends and, if it ever took power nationally, they speculate, it would be as welcoming to foreign multinationals as the Congress Party. And, secondly, its Hindu India line is suspect because of its commitment to the upper castes.

Perhaps the point is not that many alternative political parties in many countries are frauds but that they get their energy from the shrinkage of government, from government's loss of reach, responsibility, and passion. There are many causes for this, and every case is different. But the liberalisation process is exactly the wrong recipe for democracies that want to avoid being taken for a ride by dangerous parties. It compounds other difficulties. It makes governments mean, and anxious to shed tasks rather than to take them up. And when such governments do intervene they either come with fistfuls of money or the gun. The old western democracies, themselves suffering from the same processes, tend in their attempts to help to make the same mistake, backing up the money and guns, or both.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that the wrong package of remedies is being offered around the globe. The project that liberalisation offers is not an exciting one for ordinary people. The economic rewards are problematic, and unequally distributed. The social costs can be high. That does not mean the rewards are not desired. But this is not enough to fill the sails of the ship of politics. Aspirations to supplement government with "governance", defined as the beneficial mangement of society by a whole range of other institutions, are worthy but diffuse. The reduction in government's range and its sour relationship with people gives alternative parties, with their often fraudulent but grander visions, the space in which to grow. The democratic crisis that has us nailbiting at every other election is unlikely to be solved until this simple fact is grasped.

Yobs in high dudgeon

Rattling the bars

Ian Aitken

ONE of the lesser inconveniences of events like Wednesday night's riot and looting in Brixton is that it restarts the tedious dispute between the hard right and the starry-eyed left over whether such things should be blamed on the inherent criminal badness of the perpetrators or on the social conditions in which they exist.

Indeed, we were already beginning just such a debate after the dreadful murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence outside his own school last week. Unfortunately, the argument is completely pointless, sheds no light on such appalling events, and provides no help in preventing their repitition.

True, New Labour's Jack Straw shows signs of switching sides in the debate, in a determined effort to prevent his party from being labelled as anti-police or pro-hooligan. But it was left to the Daily Telegraph, now more right-wing than ever under its new editor, to put the anti-hooligan case in all its Blimpish splendour.

Yesterday it congratulated everyone involved on the fact that that no one had so far suggested that the problem could be solved by a massive injection of cash into the inner-cities. Under the headline "It was just criminal", it declared that thuggery had taken over, and that civil society was giving way to a "rights-based culture" expressed in soaring crime.

But the argument really stems from a confusion — deliberate in some cases, accidental in others — between punishment and prevention. No one who thinks about the matter clearly could claim that Wedesday's looters were anything but bad, or deny that they deserved punishment.

But equally obviously, thuggery and the other things which haunt the minds of Telegraph leaderwriters happen more often in deprived areas than in affluent suburbs. Not all unemployed youngsters turn to crime, it is true, but a significant percentage do. Ergo, the number of hooligans is directly linked to the numbers out of work.

So it follows that reducing the number of unemployed young men on our streets will reduce the amount of thuggery. This does not mean that we shouldn't fling looters into jail when we catch them. But it does mean that, in the long run, improved social conditions are a more effective way of cutting street crime.

☐ ANOTHER unfortunate spin-off from this kind of debate arises from the ghastly case of Philip Lawrence. Mr Lawrence was a genuine hero, and also a very fine schoolmaster. But a real problem was raised by some of the praise which this attracted.

There seems to be no doubt that his fair but firm approach to running his school sharply improved its academic performance. There was much admiration for his carefully thought-out methods, especially after the publication of the moving interview which he gave to a local journalist on the very day of his death.

But one part of Mr Lawrence's method was to expell troublesome pupils. He told his interviewer that he had expelled 60 children in the space of three years. This, he conceded, had established a record among local headmasters.

No doubt it was effective, and also was the right thing to do from the point of view his own school. But one can't help wondering what happened to the 60 pupils he dismissed, and what happened to the academic standards of the schools which eventually took them in. For they must have gone somewhere.

☐ It must be deeply disappointing for sightseers who throng the pavements outside the Mother of Parliaments, even in winter, to find that the entire area looks like a spectacular bomb site because of the rebuilding of Westminster tube station opposite Big Ben, which has been turned into a huge hole in the ground.

But at least German visitors can experience a modest surge of national pride. A sign hanging over the whole enterprise bears the single word "Krupps". Not since the wartime years have Messrs Krupp had, well, such an impact on the streets of London.

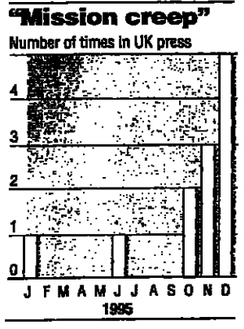
Smallweed

I THINK I may have discovered what's wrong with the European Union. (Apart, that is, from inventions like EMU, which as well as reducing France to its present chaos may have helped to propel the frightening Austrian politician Jorg Haider into a position of dangerously powerful influence.) The clue is contained in a Time magazine report throwing doubts on the authenticity of the Book of Exodus. According to recent analysis, it's, in essence, a political fabrication designed to unite the disparate tribes of Canaan through a falsified heroic past.

Such techniques have continued through the centuries. Some of our own are documented in a book called The Invention of Tradition, by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, which shows, for example, that the ancient tradition of Highlanders clad in kilts, and fecund in dirks and sporrans, owes more to Victorian romanticism than to Caledonian history. Given that so many in Europe, and especially here, stubbornly refuse to sublimate national allegiance to a greater European loyalty, what the Europhiles should be trying to establish is that Europe was always One, and that present national divisions are a mere aberration. Though a Euro-sceptic myself, I could be tempted by an offer of lavish funding from some federalist clique to prepare a series of monographs on such themes as: Athelstan - King of the Belgians; or, The Role of Louis IXth in the Rehabilitation of Luton FC.

IT HAS BEEN around for a while, but with the despatch of American forces to shore up the Bosnian settlement, the expression "mission creep", Smallweed predicts, will now become inescapable, the stuff of fashion pages, football reports and late-night television chats about youth culture. The concept — that a military undertaking will break the bounds prescribed for it — is as old as warfare itself: one instantly thinks, for instance, of the disastrous campaign in Bohemia in 1741-3 which helped convince the Marquis of Vauvenargues to give up the military life.

The first use of the term I can trace in this country occurred in the Herald, Glasgow, in August 1993 in the context of US involvement in Somalia. But its use has escalated over the past three months on a scale which warrants that occasional treat, a Smallweed graphic. (please note the December figure is provisional: on the basis of three references so far, and allowing for a dip at Christmas, I assume a total of five mentions this month.)



In the Commons last week, a Conservative MP eager to flatter Michael Portillo (a common condition this, on the Tory back benches, which Smallweed will in future describe as "submission creep") suggested the term was Portillo's own invention. But with characteristic modesty, he disclaimed it, saying it seemed to have come from America. It simply seems to have seeped here: transmission creep, I suppose.

THE RECENT spectacular gaffe by the Daily Telegraph, which printed a speech by Lord Mackay which he hadn't actually made, could hardly have come at a more embarrassing moment, since efforts were under way to repair the long estrangement between Conrad Black's empire (the Daily and Sunday Telegraph and Spectator) and John Major, culminating in a summit meeting at Chequers which the three Black editors — Charles Moore, Dominic Lawson and Frank Johnson — attended. One possible fruit of the process has been the appointment as Spectator political columnist of Major's biographer, who went into the heart-rending days of November 1990 (when the lady was toppled) as a leading Thatcher submission-creeper, and came out in much the same posture before John Major.

Less encouragingly for Major, however, Sue Douglas, new editor of the previously Major-loyal Sunday Express, has recruited the young and bumptious Thatcherite historian, Andrew Roberts, a close friend of the equally rightwing academic Niall Ferguson (Douglas's husband) as comment editor. Pieces entitled: "John Major, the 21st century Churchill", or "The Man who's put the Great back in Great Britain" should not be expected.

THE LABOUR PARTY will be interviewing on Monday for the post of director of policy. The job is likely to go to Matthew Taylor.

A pedant writes: This cannot be so. Matthew Taylor is a Liberal Democrat MP.

Smallweed wearily ripostes: Is that necessarily a bar in today's Labour Party? . . . Still, since you choose to question my veracity, let me make it clear that this is a different Matthew Taylor, the son of Professor Laurie. Some people involved in the selection think the job should have gone to Hilary Benn, who's also the son of somebody famous. He came especially well through the weeding-out process. But Other Factors outweighed that (spindoctorese for Blair doesn't want him).

THE DROPPING of the England fast bowlers Malcolm and Fraser for the third test against South Africa may well have made cricketing history. Let Smallweed be the first to advance the claim that this is the first time ever when a cricketing nation has dropped two fast bowlers whose names, when laid end to end, supply the name of the former prime minister of another cricketing country.

هكذا من الاصل

The fast track to forgiving

Sarah Maitland

IT MUST be unusual for a feminist to have some gut sympathy with the conservative views of the former Chief Rabbi. Nonetheless Lord Jakobovits, in a Daily Mail piece this week "Why we should damn this disastrous urge to forgive", managed to win my agreement — briefly.

We have got into the habit of dishing out quick forgivenesses to those who have hurt someone else. This is an issue which recently has concerned feminists too, particularly Christian feminists, because there is a history of women being asked, even required, to forgive male violence — particularly in marriage. If women fail to do so, they're disempowered and made to feel guilty while the forgiveness is dished out without further reference to them: "I forgive my daughter's rapist." Well, thank you, Daddy.

There is a theological argument, biblically based, for questioning whether forgiveness can work, can have *any* meaning, without prior repentence. Repentence carries with it some attempt at "reparation", (including accepting any legal consequences of an act) and a commitment not to repeat the offence. However my initial sympathy evaporated when I studied the arguments put forward by Lord Jakobovits. In the first place he implies a very simple divide between those who forgive and those who are forgiven: we, the virtuous, should stop forgiving them, the vicious. In making this spurious division he equates sin and law, which is highly dubious. Not everything that is illegal is sinful and *vice versa*. We all need forgiveness.

Then he fails to look at the possibility that forgiving may be empowering to the "victims". Forgiveness is an action that they can choose to take in relation to the person who has deprived them of choice. (This of course only works if the victim is not unfairly pressured to forgive, nor psychologically punished for failing to do so.) Because to forgive is to act — and is also to acknowledge that something has happened requiring forgiveness — forgiveness addresses the reality of the offence. My own experience of being forgiven, along with my experience of forgiving (my children, especially) is that the sense of joy and relief at being re-incorporated into a community is the most powerful deterrent I know.

But I am far more alarmed by Lord Jakobovits's suggestion that "only" the victim suffers from an offence; that we live in a dreary isolation, so that no one is really hurt by a murder except the murdered person. It seems to me that at the very least the widow of the London headmaster fatally stabbed last week and her children have something to forgive — so, too, do the pupils and staff at the school who were exposed to a barbarity, who have lost an apparently much loved headmaster, and whose free coming and goings on the street will now be restricted by fear. Their parents and friends have suffered too, and will suffer from the fears and traumas that will afflict their loved ones.

Come to that, the taxpayer will suffer because of the benefits that Mrs Lawrence will, very properly, draw, and because of the cost of police hours and renewed security systems in schools. The citizen will suffer because people will be less willing to be teachers: we all have an interest in children's best education.

But beyond that, we are all victims of violence because we are social beings — we are diminished by acts of murder, barbarity and inhumanity wherever and whoever commits such deeds. Inextricably bound together, socially constructed as persons, we are all both creators and victims of our own social violence: we need both to forgive and be forgiven. Dare I risk "Send not to ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee" here?

This is very important; it is, or should be, the basis of law. In this country we make a clear division between criminal and civil law, on the grounds that murder (for instance) is the concern of us all, whereas the height of my neighbour's hedge is between my neighbour and me. It is not Mrs Lawrence's (or any other direct sufferer's) job to decide whether or not she will pursue her husband's killers. It is our job because — without diminishing her personal grief — we are all offended against.

I was shown recently a proposed code of practice in relation to sexual assault and harassment drawn up by a co-educational tertiary college. It began with the clear statement that sexual harassment of anyone was an offence against the college itself — the individual complainant was simply a "good citizen" prepared to be a witness. The entire college community had an interest in the safety and well-being of each of its members. The basis of the code was that, internally, harassment was going to be treated as a criminal rather than a civil offence. The benefits of such an approach are obvious.

I think that the former Chief Rabbi is in trouble if he wants to argue that in the case of Mr Lawrence's murder forgiveness is God's alone; because then so is judgment and vengeance. And in a society where so many do not believe in his God (or mine, or anyone else's) there will then be no basis for any law at all.

THE primary function of the law is not to punish (or even prosecute) criminals. It is not to make us good. It is to protect and enable citizens. Because of our inter-relatedness this requires a constant fine tuning between individual rights and communal self-consciousness. This is why, incidently, it is very good news that the Spanner Case defendants have been allowed to appeal to the European Court. We need to ask ourselves whether or not we are collectively diminished or corrupted by an activity involving mutual consent we would not even have heard of if the law had not intervened.

This is a very practical matter really; it is not about morality and theology. It is about protection. Some people believe that a sterner law discourages violent crime; others believe that vengeance and punishment increases the violence loose, as it were, in any community (this group, I should say, includes me and we do have some evidence in the case of smaller communities — households, schools and workplaces — that we are right). Whichever of these positions is most effective should be the one that the law follows. Personal morality is, of course, a different matter.

That one? This one? mmmmm . . . ALEX DUVAL SMITH on why truffles in France are becoming even harder to find

This little piggy went to mark it

IF THE black truffle was a furry animal, celebrities would be telling us not to wear it and David Attenborough would stake it out in the mating season. Ecologists would blame modern farming methods and travellers would block the earth movers building the A20 motorway from Paris to Toulouse. But the prized fungus, which thrives two inches below ground in south-west France and eventually ends up in Harrods' food halls, defies all human logic. "Its mysteries are as great as those of the church," says Guy Cubaynes, aged 52.

On frosty mornings between December and March, Mr Cubaynes takes his pig for a walk in the oak orchards he farms in the Quercy region. The pig grunts and its tail spins with excitement as its nose plows through the thick autumn leaves in search of the elusive *tuber melanosporum*. If the pig finds one, Mr Cubaynes rewards it with a handful of maize or cold boiled potatoes.

But as he whispers encouragement to his 150-kilo workmate, he is not sure whether there is much future in hunting the "black diamond" which looks like a lump of coal but enriched his father and grandfather and many others. At smart food shops around the world, prices start at £1,300 a kilogramme.

"I have four sons and I can't see any of them taking over from me," he says. "This is an old man's profession. It takes 15 years for the roots of an oak tree to attract truffles. To young people these days, that is too long to wait." Mr Cubaynes remembers a time when, on truffling days, you got back long before nightfall because you could not carry any more of the hard, rough lumps. "Now you go out and you just don't know if you will find anything," he says.

Five kilometres away, in the limestone village of Lalbenque, talk in the Auberge du Lion d'Or is as animated as in a City dealing room. But the traders here are mostly over 60 and wear heavy anoraks and flat caps. Each carries a dainty basket in his great rough hand. It contains the week's harvest, wrapped in a white napkin. The other hand, is wrapped around a glass of milky-looking pastis.

"We're expecting an average season," says Jacques Lagarrigue, jealously guarding the half kilo of truffles he has brought to sell when the Tuesday market begins at 2.30pm in the street outside the Lion d'Or. Guy Cazes, who has 250 grammes to sell, is more cagey about the prospects: It will be a fortnight before we can tell."

For a moment, Marthe Delon, the elderly waitress, takes the friendly toothless grin off her face: "You start truffling too early. The truffles are no good until well into December or January. More and more people are using dogs to hunt out the truffles; dogs pick up anything, whether it is ready or not. That means the truffles don't have time to leave their seed, or whatever it is they leave in the ground. I'm for pigs," she says.

One man and his pig . . . Guy Cubaynes and workmate set out in search of the elusive truffle; top, haggling under way during a transaction in the market at Lalbenque

PHOTOGRAPHS: PATRICK DEREWIANY

Among the 800 people in Lalbenque, Mrs Delon, aged 67, is the only *trufficultrice* anyone can think of. But her opinions are respected by the *trufficulteurs*. "The last Tuesday in November always used to be the day you bought your pig. This year, as every year, that is when I bought mine. But other people were selling their truffles. No truffles should be sold until the season officially begins on the first Tuesday in December," she tells the old chaps.

In the Rue du Marché de Truffes, planks of wood have been laid out on tressles. Each farmer places his basket on the improvised table and stands over it as potential buyers — who include restaurateurs and canning company agents — sniff the truffles.

A good specimen is solid and smells strongly of earth, fungus and something resembling horse manure. At the height of the season, in mid January, the smell is so strong it pervades the street.

Scraps of paper are exchanged, stating weight and agreed price. By 2.45pm, everyone has disappeared. "No money is exchanged on the market," says Commander Bruno Poisson of the local Gendarmerie, who is lending a watchful eye.

Up the hill, behind the church, Mr Cazes and Mr Lagarrigue are doing a deal with René Constant, who has bought their produce for a canning company. He weighs each batch of truffles and payment is made in cash: 1,700 francs (£220) a kilo. Other *trufficulteurs* are striking deals behind the post office.

Back at the Lion d'Or — whose speciality is omelette with sliced fresh truffles — heads are shaking. "It is not a very encouraging start. Last winter prices got up to 3,000 francs (£380) a kilo," says Hubert Cavalié, president of the local *trufficulteurs*' union.

Worried drinkers cast their minds back: "Twenty years ago you saw markets at which two tonnes of truffles were sold on a Tuesday," says one.

Lalbenque is in decline and for all the talk of the *melanosporum* being the best truffle in the world, no one has yet managed to explain why the Lot département produced 55 tonnes in 1958 but could only eke out 9 tonnes last year. The leanest years on record coincide with hot summers — like 1976 and 1983 — so the prospects for this winter are not good. On the other hand, the recent cold weather and snow might make a difference.

Mr Cavalié believes the A20 motorway — which will pass 5 kilometres from Lalbenque when completed at the end of 1996 — will sound the final death knell. "Twenty hectares of *truffières* have been lost to its construction and there will be untold damage from air pollution," he says.

But Pierre Sourzat, an agri-scientist who runs a truffle research lab near Lalbenque, dismisses the claim. "The people whose tree plantations were affected by the motorway plan have been well compensated. There is not a scrap of evidence that air pollution has a serious effect on truffles," he insists.

Truffle producers are secretive types, unwilling to reveal how much they produce, nor how they sell it. The Lion d'Or is a haven of malicious gossip — ranging from claims that such-and-such is selling truffles smuggled from Spain to word of secret deals with canning companies.

"They sell the rubbish at the market and keep the good truffles — which command higher prices — for customers who go straight to their farms," says one drinker.

"Only a fraction of what is produced is sold at the market. Only a fool would bring his entire crop to the market where sales are registered and the tax authorities could get wind of real figures. Even at the market, you never see anyone pay by cheque," says another.

However successfully real earnings are concealed, the demise of the truffle is nevertheless clear. Mr Cavalié knows of only one *trufficulteur* who makes a full-time living from his crop. "I am an estate agent and most of the others farm animals as well," he says.

But when it comes to explaining what has happened to the once plentiful crop which saved the region after phylloxera killed its vines at the end of the last century, speculation takes over. None of the old men has much time for Mr Sourzat, even though his laboratory each year attracts 200 students of trufficulture from all over Europe.

In the view of Mr Cavalié, the scientist is full of goodwill but lacking in experience. "He told us a few years ago to plant a special variety of oak. Well it just has not worked," says Mr Cavalié. Mr Sourzat is frustrated: "We're making progress. There is a lot of data to gather and we are doing so in co-operation with truffle producers in Italy, Spain and California. But I cannot wave a magic wand."

So it is over to speculation: Mr Cavalié says fruit growers west of here are bombarding clouds with chemicals to stop hailstorms and rain: "That way, they don't need to treat their trees so often, but our soil ends up dry".

Mrs Delon blames the use of dogs for truffling and says the weather has changed. "It does not snow as much as it did in olden times. And there is one other thing: the vines brought something to the earth. I don't know what it was but it helped. Now it is such a long time since we had any vines around here . . ." Others believe the use for truffle production of hazelnut orchards — which mature faster than the traditional oak — has in some way affected the overall balance.

So treasured are the remaining truffles that Cmdr Poisson and his men patrol the truffières by mountain bike. "It's a preventative measure," he admits, "but we hope it has an effect. It is hard to say, because truffle thefts often are not reported."

Many thefts, according to Guy Cubaynes, are settled with guns. "Some people around here use bullets filled with salt. The wound never heals, you see," he says.

The socialist mayor of Lalbenque, Jacques Pouget, takes a bleak view of the future of the commune he calls "mon pays" (my country). "The average age of the population is 60 and the area is being depopulated. The truffle came as a salvation for farmers after the vines disappeared. But maybe the truffles that remain are just stragglers from days when they used to grow plentifully around the vines.

"My country has gone to sleep; a kind of lethargy has been born out of the wealth the black diamond gave us. Maybe, just maybe, after the last truffle has gone, we can use the sleepy nature of this area to attract tourists who pay good money to get away from it all."

MATTHEW FORT reviews the current state of knowledge on BSE and advises what meat to eat – and where

Safer hamburgers can cost you more

IT IS probably too late for most of us already. That is because we are a country which buys its food by price rather than quality.

The cheapest form of meat available, used for processed foods, is beef (or beef by-products) from a dairy herd. And according to recent MAFF figures, 54 per cent of dairy herds have had one or more cases of BSE. Much of the beef we see in the supermarket chiller, or even on the butcher's block, comes from beef suckler herds — and 15 per cent of those have had one or more cases of BSE; that relatively low incidence is because the disease has an incubation period of five years and the animals are slaughtered around two years old.

There is no comprehensive research into whether any breed is more susceptible — and no breed is completely exempt. At the height of the epidemic, the increase in the numbers of infected cattle was the result of the disease occurring in more herds, not in more cattle in the same herds. Infection levelled off at about 5 per cent of affected herds.

There are two principle theories about the cause of BSE. The Government and its scientific advisers believe that it was caused by animal protein in feedstuffs, a problem now dealt with. An increasingly persuasive lobby points to the massive use of organo-phosphates in the eighties, when the Government sponsored a programme to eradicate warbler-fly. It may only be coincidence that the highest concentrations of BSE herds are in those areas where concentrations of organo-phosphates were highest. But at a press conference on Thursday, the Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Hogg and the chairman of the Spongiform Encephalopathology Advisory Committee, Professor John Pattison, were careful not to rule it out.

BSE does seem to be on the wane. MAFF statistics point to a decline of 40 per cent since 1994. These figures may be unduly optimistic because MAFF changed rules on the reporting of BSE cases, reducing compensation and insisting on two visits from a MAFF vet to confirm the diagnosis. So many farmers, who can now spot BSE cattle quite early, prefer to have them slaughtered and buried. Mark Purdey, most eloquent proponent of the organo-phosphate theory, expects the numbers to come down because the eighties high levels of chemicals dropped steeply in the nineties.

Even those who don't particularly want to eat beef and its by-products may have problems avoiding it. It's the gelatin around your pills, in your sweets and giving bounce to a vast range of prepared foods. If you are diabetic, you use insulin derived from cattle, although not from British cattle.

Anyone who does still want to eat beef should consider organically-reared herds, though even these have not been completely exempt from the disease; but the Soil Association says it has only occurred in herds which converted to organic farming in the last 10-15 years, or bought cows in. There has only been one incidence of BSE among organic suckler herds since 1992 — traced to cows bought from a non-organic farm.

And if you do still want to eat beef, don't eat cheap hamburgers, sausages, pies, pasties which are most likely to contain MRM — Mechanically Recovered Meat — a meat slurry made by stripping off every last fibre and sinew. If you must eat hamburgers, go to McDonalds or Burger King, as theirs are made from what are, loosely, prime cuts.

At home, make your own or get your butcher to make them, preferably in front of you from cuts you have specificied. Avoid cheap beef — if mince costs 99p a pound, it probably came from a dairy herd. And don't eat British veal.

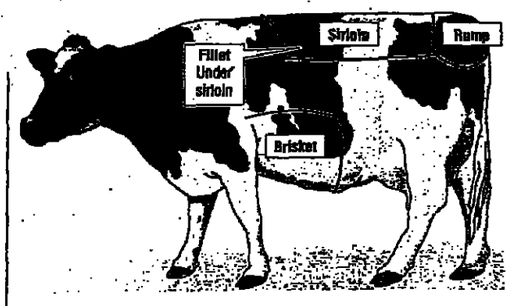
Go to a butcher who is knowledgable and committed to selling organic meat. Find out which farm he gets his beef from and check that with a list of organic farms provided by the Soil Association (0117 929 0661). Less scrupulous butchers may be making a sudden conversion to the organic movement.

The major supermarkets claim unequivocally that their beef is safe to eat. Tesco, Asda, Marks & Spencer, Safeway, Sainsbury, never use MRM though Asda, Safeway and Tesco stock non-own-brand products which may contain it. When it comes to prime cuts only Safeway will state that there is no BSE in the herds from which they buy their meat. The others maintain that it is not possible to be absolutely certain but they follow all the Government guidelines as their minimum.

Kenneth Calman interviewed, page 17

The safest cuts

The standard prime cuts, rump, sirloin, brisket, fillet, are the least likely to be carrying BSE. The highest concentrations of BSE are found in the spinal column and central nervous system. Avoid offal, including tripe, marrow bones, heart, kidneys, sweetbreads, liver, brain and tête de veau.



Mike Tyson starts getting even

Continued from page 13

brand-new holders of all three significant titles: Frank Bruno, Bruce Seldon and Frans Botha, respectively holders of the WBC, WBA and IBF belts. (The existence of Botha, a white South African, like that of Christy Martin, enables King to describe himself with a huge guffaw as "an equal-opportunity employer".)

And he has Tyson, the man who will beat each of them in turn, reunifying the titles in preparation for the ultimate showdown with Riddick Bowe, another Brooklyn boy and the man who holds the WBO, and the only one over whom King has no control.

This is the $100 million match, with so much at stake that it must be postponed as long as possible, through a ritual process of semi-public negotiation and namecalling between King and Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, while both boxers' interim earnings are maximised.

Last week, a retired teacher in Arizona — a man who had been an amateur boxer in his youth, and had rejected an offer to turn pro at one stage — wrote to his newspaper with the estimate that, just for 89 seconds in the ring against McNeeley, Tyson had earned 55 times as much as he had earned in an entire 34-year career in the classroom, before deductions. "I wouldn't trade places with Tyson," the man wrote. "I wish him well and hope his jail time will help him become a solid citizen. I offer this comparison as one more example of the weird distortion of values that drives this nation's assignment of wealth and acclaim."

"People say there must be something wrong if Don King can have all three belts," King bellowed as he waited for Tyson to step on to the scales on Thursday. "But there's nothing wrong. It's just hard work and strategy. I'm back in business. Now I have the hors d'oeuvres, I have the entree, and I have the dessert. You know what I mean? We're ready to go."

Turning back to clocks

THE joint letter from four MPs on Central European Time (December 15) reveals an ability to be "economical with the truth".

Yes, there is firm data on road safety from the 1968-71 experiment. That shows a reduction of 1,100 killed and seriously injured and 2,350 total casualties.

Yes, there have been changes in accident statistics since that date. And, by the way, seatbelts are of more benefit to car occupants than to pedestrians. The latter are less likely to be injured through extra light in the late afternoons.

These changes were considered by the Transport Research Laboratory in their 1989 report. It concluded that, in the light of change, the reductions would be 159 fewer killed, 813 fewer killed and seriously injured and 2,060 fewer total casualties.

Accidents are caused primarily by human error. The more we do to lessen the potential for error, the fewer casualties we will have. More light at the end of the day, when the majority of accidents occur, will help.

Robert Gifford.
Executive Director,
Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road,
London SE1 7EH.

WHAT spurious reasons you propound in your leader (December 13) for CET. Saving lives in road accidents could also be achieved by (a) Reducing the permitted level of alcohol in the blood stream; (b) Not permitting anyone below the age of 25 to drive a car, and (c) Reducing the speed limit to 50 miles and hour. Secondly, why can't businessmen get up an hour earlier if they wish to do business with the continent? I hear no appeals to change our time to suit the US or Japanese markets.

Philip Franklin.
Feldemore,
Old Orchard Lane,
Colwall,
Nr Malvern WR13 6NU.

YOUR correspondents (December 15) make a powerful case for retaining GMT. However, in (rightly) concentrating on the dangers of dark winter mornings, none has pointed out an even stranger effect of the suggested new system: I believe it is proposed that we should still put our clocks forward an extra hour in summer.

The blissful long light evenings of British Summer Time draw gently and naturally to their proper close in darkness. It is hard enough already to convince young children to go to bed in daylight; do we adults also want to live with bright sunshine at 10.30pm?

There is no justification whatsoever for unnecessarily introducing the white nights of Scandinavia where they are not imposed by nature. If we must move away from GMT, let it be just so far as to retain BST (now called British Standard Time) throughout the year, with no additional change of clocks in summer. Full-scale Central European Time is a nonsense for a country which is not geographically in Central Europe.

Hazel McGee.
Dedswell Drive,
West Clandon,
Guildford, Surrey GU4 7TQ.

WHY are you so keen to switch to Central European Time as if we were out of step with the rest of Europe, when in fact it is our nearest European neighbour who is out of step not just with us but with common sense? The French, I understand, were forced to adopt Berlin time during the Nazi occupation, and for some reason never switched back after the war. The result is that in summer they get up from their midday meal to resume work (often in the open) just when the sun is at its highest (and hottest) at noon — which they insist on labelling 2pm. Do we really wish to imitate them in their folly?

Robert Nowell.
2 Tudor Road,
New Barnet,
Herts EN5 5PA.

Death threats come with the job

THIS year I have been ordained 25 years, during which period I have received a number of death threats, anonymous as well as personally delivered (Death threat to woman priest, December 13). I have separated fighting youths: on one occasion they were waving knives. I have taken my family near to war zones — all in the furtherance of what I consider to be my vocation.

I am sorry for the woman curate who has been fazed by a death threat, particularly after many years of other forms of verbal abuse in relation to her calling. She joins a multitude of other Christian leaders who have been threatened, and in some countries often do lose their lives because of their calling. We remember that all Christians are called to face the cross, particularly those who are called to be under-shepherds with Jesus. Most of us of course, are very nearly always protected from its actuality — a more reliable message from the Book of Revelation, than the imagery chosen for the picture accompanying the story. Inevitably, with less resources for psychiatric care, public figures will be more at risk from mentally unbalanced people.

Ray Skinner.
The Rectory,
London Road,
Morden,
Surrey SM4 5QT

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SUN 16/12/95

Sex, the Net and a scrum

I WAS interested to read that James Kirkup's poem The Love That Dares Not Speak Its Name is available on the Internet. I hope he is receiving royalties. If not, why not? This seems at least as serious an issue as the poem's alleged blasphemy and ban in this country.

Margaret Drabble
St Marks Road,
London W10 6JS

PAULA Froelich trivialises some important issues by sarcastically arguing that playing rugby will help girls' Christmas shopping skills (Scrum on down, December 11). As a female teacher at an independent school, I am well aware that the violence of rugby does not only consist overtly in the physical activity of playing but much more subtly in the form of depriving girls of the actual choice to play. This also denies them full development of their confidence and the sense of responsibility which their male contemporaries enjoy. As a rugby player myself I know that these are the "practical lessons" in self-assurance learned from playing rugby.

Wendy Worham.
Sevenoaks School,
Kent TN13 1HU.

YOUR ICM poll of attitudes towards homosexuality and employment (December 14) hides the reality which still faces lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Only last weekend a gay man in Birmingham, suffered a broken nose and may have damaged eyesight after a homophobic attack outside a gay club. Later that night, a lesbian was threatened at knife-point before being given a broken nose and split lip.

And I find it astounding that you could use the headline "Tories most liberal-minded about gay MPs", when the poll shows no significant difference between Conservative, Labour or Liberal Democrat voters. This government has carried out the most vicious campaign through legislation and policy statements to whip up anti-gay prejudice than any government since the 1950s.

Helen Redwood.
Militant Labour Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Group.
3-13 Hepscott Road,
London E9 5HB.

I WAS interested to read that Frederick Stocken is a lodger with Virginia Bottomley (David McKie, December 13). Mr McKie implies that this is a bizarre coupling. But anyone who has heard Frederick Stocken's Lament for Bosnia on Classic FM will realise that Stocken is an important composer; and it is all credit therefore to Virginia Bottomley as Minister for Arts that she is giving practical support to an important young artist working today. Does this count as privatisation through the back door?

Madeleine Beard.
49 Vandon Court,
Petty France,
London SW1H 9HF.

RADIO 4 news has just reported a Law Commission consultation paper as "good news for all sado-masochists" (December 14). Surely this is the last thing they would want to hear?

A Gordon.
Hall Road,
Romford,
Essex RM2 6HB.

Reports from Brixton's front line

WEDNESDAY, 10.30pm in Brixton. Coming home from a quiet drink in Coldharbour Lane, a friend and I cut through Rushcroft Road to avoid the brewing trouble. The street is virtually deserted; but as we approach the junction with Effra Road, relative calm is broken by hundreds of riot police surging from Brixton Road towards Brixton Hill. A sizeable section of this force then wheels in our direction, blocking the exit of Rushcroft Road, and charges towards the handful of pedestrians in its path screaming at us to "Move!". We run, but not fast enough, and I feel a sharp pain in my back as I am struck by a police baton. Blind panic is soon replaced by outrage and disbelief.

If the Met's behaviour left a white middle-class adult in a secure job feeling such anger and hatred towards the police, how much worse an impact must it have had on my young black neighbours? Yes, there were inflammatory speeches at the initial demonstration; and yes, there was a criminal element involved in the looting. But I am convinced the scale and brutality of the police response was in no small part responsible for the escalation of violence.

Jamie Elliott.
Josephine Avenue,
Brixton, London SW2 2LA.

THE central question is what caused the death of Wayne Douglas in police custody. Preliminary statements, presumably from police sources, that this was due to a "heart attack", later diluted to a "heart condition", need absolute verification. Coronary heart disease remains uncommon among people of African Caribbean or direct African origin and, although younger black people may be becoming more at risk, a genuine heart attack, that is from obstruction to the coronary arteries, remains exceptionally rare at age 26, in any ethnic group. As a medical witness in 1985 and 1986 in a successful defence of a young black man who had been seriously beaten by multiple truncheon blows while in police custody, I had first-hand experience of the accuracy of both police officers' and occasionally police surgeons' evidence.

(Dr) J K Cruickshank.
Senior Lecturer and Consultant Physician, Medical School,
University of Manchester.

IT SEEMS to be accepted that a small number of demonstrators, protesting by agreement with the police, were harangued by agitators. They moved up the road and within an hour or two a riot had started which the police could not control. Leave aside the question whether the violence was incited by police tactics, why did they not prevent things geting out of control? Have they no techniques for managing demonstrations which may turn violent? Were they surprised when this one did? Who was in charge? Anyone who lives, shops or does business in Brixton, or any other sensitive area, is entitled to know what went wrong and what is being done to prevent a repetition.

William Plowden.
Stockwell Park Road,
London SW9 0DD.

IN BRIXTON the relationship between blacks and the police is delicately balanced, and it doesn't take much to tip it into chaos. Two days after the riots, Militant Socialist activists are handing out leaflets calling for another demonstration. "Once again the police run riot in Brixton" is how the text starts. At best this is cock-eyed, at worst inflammatory. The riots were in large part due to a lethal cocktail of rent-a-demo agitators and several hundred volatile youths, whipped to a frenzy. Disaffected young blacks are treated insensitively by the police and exploited by protest groups who use their sense of grievance for their own half-baked political ends.

Adam Lechmere.
Hargwyne Street,
London SW9.

WE HAVE monitored deaths in custody since 1981. Black people are markedly over-represented among those who die following violent incidents involving the police. This reinforces concerns about the oppressive policing of the black community and police racism. Many of these deaths occur after the use of excessive, unlawful and unnecessary force.

We have no confidence in current mechanisms for investigating deaths in police custody, where police are called in to investigate themselves. These remain biased and are never made public; and yet they form the basis on which the Crown Prosecution Service and the Police Complaints Authority decide whether charges are to be brought, and strongly influence the shape of the inquest. Prosecutions rarely happen. This means the police remain unaccountable to the public and are seen by many as above the law.

Helen Shaw.
Deborah Coles.
Co-Directors,
Inquest.
330 Seven Sisters Road,
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WHY not install video cameras in police stations?

Bob Warwicker.
Appleby Close,
Twickenham TW2 5NA.

Don't drop the children's milk

THE recent Budget contained a move to remove the discretionary subsidy on school milk for children aged 6 to 16. This move will save the Treasury £4 million. However, it will potentially damage the developing health of children in most need.

A survey by NCH Action for Children of families attending their help centres showed that none of the families were getting a healthy diet; children were going hungry and many people were eating a "very poor" diet. Most of the families were either on very low incomes or income support.

At the moment, children of families on income support are entitled to free school meals. This represents around 2.7 million children. Despite the importance of diet and the role of school meals in this, there are no regulations designed to ensure that school meals are of good nutritional value.

The development of compulsory competitive tendering in school meal contracts in the absence of such regulations means that there is increased pressure to supply cheap food at the expense of nutritional value. The removal of the option of subsidised milk will intensify this pressure.

It is essential that nutritional guidance for school meal providers be developed and legislation introduced to make minimum standards mandatory, and the action to remove the EU subsidy on provision of school milk be reviewed.

(Dr) Hugo Crombie.
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Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them for clarity and concision.

The TV review

I SHOULD have thought Jeremy Isaacs (Letters, December 14) would have been delighted that his successor, Michael Grade, has been able to increase his programme budget by 44 per cent over the last four years. It is a pity so much of this handsome increase goes on US imports rather than British programmes, unlike ITV's spending on programmes.

Let me remind Mr Isaacs what Michael Grade said to the National Heritage Select Committee as recently as October 19, 1993: "This is why the funding formula insurance policy Channel 4 has is so important to us. In the end it is making editorial decisions about what investments you make in programmes with only one set of people in mind, and that is the viewers. You do not worry about your shareholders, you do not worry about your advertisers and you do not worry about anything."

Grade well describes the extremely privileged position in which Channel 4 finds itself. As a protected public corporation, Channel 4 enjoys a whole raft of financial and regulatory advantages unknown to ITV.

In Britain the commercial-television sector has prospered because the competition between the two major advertiser-funded channels has been managed by regulatory checks and balances. It is perfectly possible to move to a deregulated commercial market place in the UK if that is what Channel 4 and the Government want — though we believe viewers and advertisers benefit more from a continuation of the current system.

Leslie Hill.
Chairman, Independent Television Association.
200 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8HF.

Charles's side of the story

READERS will have been misled by insinuations in your article, Fall of the houses of Windsor (Review, December 8). You say the Poundbury development in Dorchester has "gone wrong", "run out of steam", "died" or become "a nightmare" for the Prince of Wales. In fact, this is a 20-year, 400-acre project by the Duchy of Cornwall with West Dorset District Council. Your description is a caricature of Poundbury when just four acres have been developed, on schedule, over the past two years.

For the record, the first batch of 34 private homes is nearly finished; 25 have already been sold or reserved. In addition, 35 homes have been rented to local people through the Guinness Trust. The builders, C G Fry and Son, have started work on 68 more private houses and 20 homes for renting plus shops. Clearly sales are good and the builders extremely confident, despite a markedly depressed housing market. Poundbury is their best-selling scheme in Dorset.

Workshop units are occupied (the article says there are none) and West Dorset District Council is seeking planning permission for more. An enterprise centre is being built and an international electronics company is moving its headquarters to Poundbury next month.

Your article also accuses the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture of failure — based on journalistic research which gets right neither the title of the institute nor its director's name. In fact, the institute has achieved a great deal in just three years. It runs a widely respected Foundation Course and is two years into its first graduate course. The University of Wales validates courses and the RIBA accredits a diploma programme. It offers a master's and doctoral programme in visual Islamic and traditional arts which, in its combination of theory and practice, is probably unique in Europe. The institute has undertaken practical projects in Britain and its summer school has worked on urban design schemes in France and Italy. Far from "running out of steam", the institute has made a remarkable start.

Readers might agree that your article judged Poundbury, the Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture and Perspectives magazine on considerably less than the facts.

Allan Percival.
Press Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales.
St James's Palace,
London SW1A 1BS.

Howard's victims

THE Michael Howard who was appalled by the death of Philip Lawrence (Head teacher stabbed by gang, December 9) and is consulting ACPO about "stiffening the law" is the same Michael Howard who last year was ruled to have acted unlawfully by the Court of Appeal in trying to scrap the present Criminal Injuries Compensation Board scheme (CICB) and to replace it with a cheaper tariff scheme.

Howard remains committed to legislating for a cheaper tariff scheme which will save the Government money. His new "improved" scheme recently received the Royal consent. Although the Home Secretary's rhetoric is tough on crime, the reality he seeks is tough on the victims of crime.

Roger Maddocks.
Brian Thompson & Partners,
Percy House, Percy Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4QW.

And briefly . . .

WHY not take advantage of the cold snap and launch your own-brand thermal underwear?

Steve Bell's drawings of the Prime Minister have already associated the Guardian with underwear in the public mind and you have influence with some of the most foolish and easily persuaded people in the country. You could market under the slogan: "Why stop at woolly thinking?"

M T Dalling.
58 Aldervale Cottages,
Crowborough,
E Sussex TN6 3BU.

A Country Diary

MACHYNLLETH: A rare treat this week and just in time for Christmas. The long-awaited Flora of Montgomeryshire has appeared. A weighty volume of 244 pages, it is the fruit of years of painstaking efforts by a whole legion of botanists and others. But it is much more than a botany book. In fact, only the second part is devoted exclusively to the plants. The first 84 pages give an expert description of Montgomeryshire's mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers, towns, villages, roads, railways, quarries, old mines and its one canal. There are sections on botanical history, climate, geology, soils, land use, general vegetation, ecology and conservation. Beautiful and unindustrialised, Montgomeryshire is also diverse. All down the western half are high, wild, sour-soiled moorlands. In the east are the fertile farmlands of the Severn Valley and neighbouring districts. In the north-east there is an outcrop of limestone rich in plants which are absent from the rest of the county. Special floral communities grow on the igneous rocks of the Breiden Hills. And in the far west the county dips a toe into the Dyfi estuary and so adds saltmarsh plants to its list. The botanical section gives an inventory of all the wild plants with notes on their status and many of the species have a distribution map. The records have been computerised and a final chapter interprets the data with a thoroughness only a computer could achieve. Three satellite photographs pick out a wealth of physical features: there are five lovely plates of wildflowers in colour and many black and white illustrations. This delightful book, which will long be a standard source of information, is edited by Ian Trueman, Alan Morton and Marjorie Wainwright and is obtainable for £18 plus £3.95 p&p from the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, 20 Severn St, Welshpool, SY21 7AD; or from the Montgomeryshire Field Society, Oswestry, SY11 1LA.

WILLIAM CONDRY

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

We won't keep you company in the cold

Should Britain embrace monetary union? Launching a series in which key European figures give their views, Irish foreign minister DICK SPRING argues EMU's case and warns that if Britain stays out, Ireland will suffer

BRITAIN IN EUROPE

WE IRISH have always taken a positive view of European integration. In three referenda the people approved the process by large majorities, so from our point of view, monetary union is a central element in the development of Europe.

EMU is not a new idea. As long ago as 1970 the Werner report envisaged it. In fact, many aspects are in place. We have, for example, total freedom of movement of capital between member states. This freedom is part of the evolution of a real single market in goods and services. The debate is about the final stage of EMU which will involve the move to a single currency.

The realistic date for the final stage is now January 1, 1999, but the practical work of preparing for it has already begun. This weekend's Madrid meeting will agree on a "reference scenario" for how the transition to the single currency will be carried out.

Ireland intends to qualify to participate from the start. Our intention is no mere aspiration. The European Commission judged that Ireland was one of only two countries in 1994 (the other was Luxembourg), and one of only three in 1995 (the others were Germany and Luxembourg), to meet the excessive deficit criteria for participation in the final stage. Irish inflation is among the EU's lowest, at 2.4 per cent. The annual government deficit for 1995 is projected at 2.7 per cent of GDP, well within the limit of 3 per cent. (Indeed, we have been within the limit each year since and including 1989.)

Ireland is running the kind of disciplined economy that is essential for membership. This discipline has been accompanied by the fastest growth in the union. In 1987 the Irish per capita GNP was less than 58 per cent of the EU average. In 1994 it was estimated at around 74. I mention these figures because it is sometimes implied in arguments critical of EMU that the disciplines it demands would necessarily be harmful to growth and employment. (We have not solved our unemployment problem; we still have a long way to go, but we have put in place the essential basis for the task and our employment growth performance is in fact significantly higher than the EU average.)

A monetary union will improve in participating states the climate for growth with low inflation. It will give a further boost to the single market by eliminating currency transaction costs and exchange rate risks and also by reducing the psychological barriers to business across borders. This is of particular interest to a small open economy such as Ireland which is so heavily dependent on trade. In addition, interest rates will tend to be uniform and lower, since investors tend to accept lower interest rates in major currencies (such as the mark) which they perceive to be very secure.

It is sometimes argued that states will lose the flexibility needed to tackle economic problems. However, the disciplines of EMU such as low deficits and inflation are essential for sound economic management anyway. It is also argued that we will be tied to interest rates set by others, for the needs of others. The fact is, however, that in a single market where money can move freely, we are affected by interest rates elsewhere even if we do not enter monetary union.

SINCE participating states will have no national currencies, the freedom to seek competitive advantage through devaluations will also be removed. This is a doubtful freedom anyhow. Experience in Europe and elsewhere indicates that in general any advantage of a falling exchange rate is eroded with time. It is better to seek to be competitive through economic discipline. EMU will reinforce this discipline.

We realise that adherence to the treaty criteria alone will not ensure that our economy performs well after we join. All the operators in the economy, and not only the Government, must constantly improve their competitiveness, flexibility and efficiency so as to ensure that we can continue to grow and maximise employment. Our performance in recent years gives us confidence that we are capable of continuing to do this.

A currency union is not something strange to Ireland: we had one with sterling until we joined the EMS in 1979. That monetary union was, however, quite different from what EMU will be. It did not involve the kind of participation envisaged in the Maastricht Treaty — the UK took decisions on the exchange rate, Ireland simply had to follow them. In EMU on the other hand we will all participate, through the European Central Bank, in all the monetary decisions which affect us, instead of being in a situation where we must live with the consequences of decisions taken by others in places where our voice is not heard.

The EU has eliminated the system of national customs duties. No one now regrets this. Similarly, the single currency will also become an accepted part of everyday life.

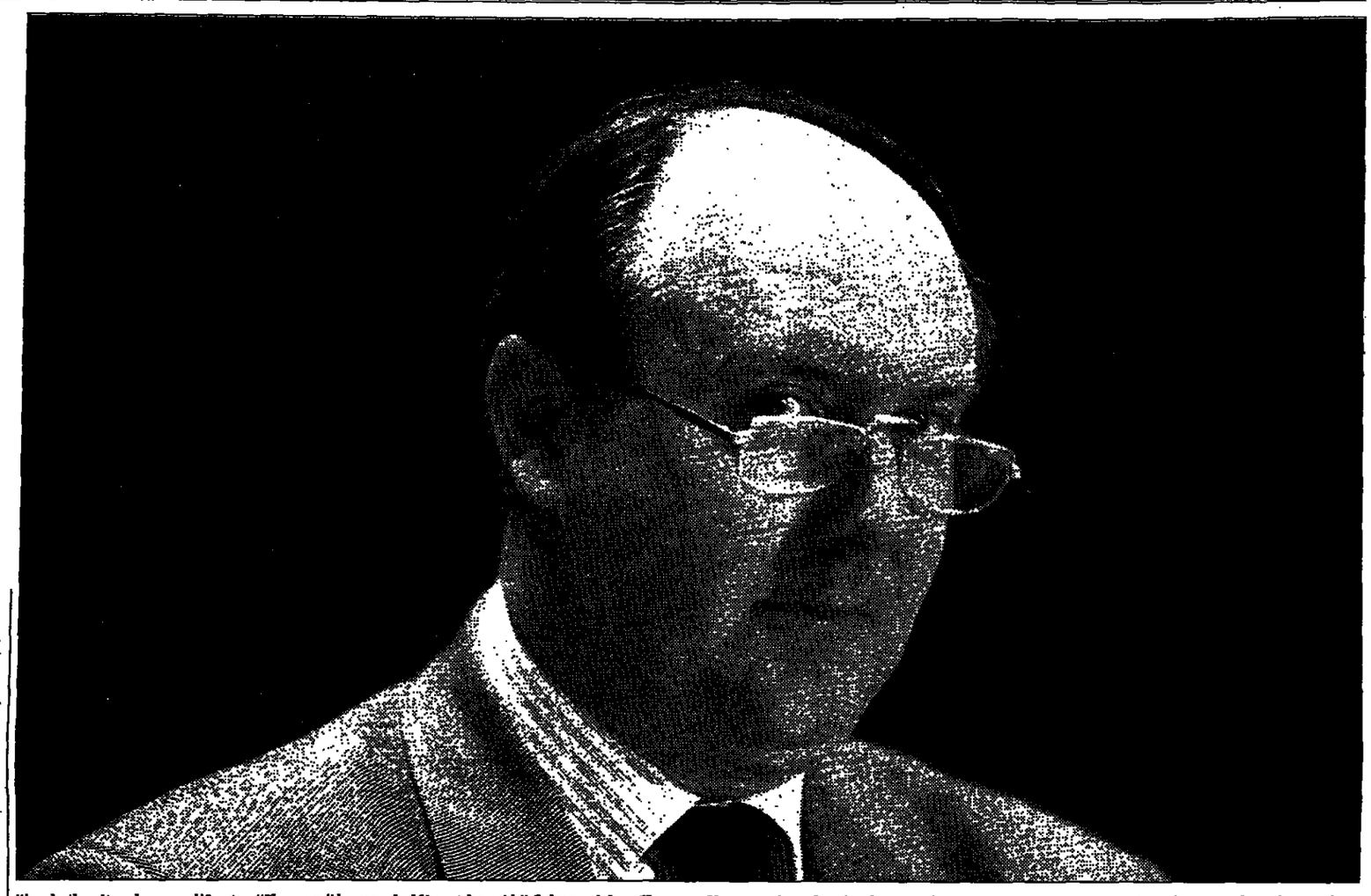
Given the extent of our trade and economic ties, it should not come as a surprise that Ireland follows the debate in Britain on EMU with some interest, although it is not a debate in which we could or would intervene. We knew when we signed the Maastricht Treaty that Britain had a protocol enabling it to remain outside EMU even if it qualifies.

We are aware of the risks for Ireland if the UK, our largest single trading partner, stays outside. The relationship between the single currency and those of the non-participating member states is exercising minds in many member states. But Ireland's business remains to ensure that we qualify for EMU at the outset and that we can be successful members of it.

Dick Spring TD is Tánaiste and Irish minister for foreign affairs. This series continues midweek on the Comment page

The doctor will see us now

Kenneth Calman is the Government Chief Medical Officer. The boozer's charter, BSE - he's had a bad week. Photograph by GRAHAM TURNER



The MEGAN TRESIDDER INTERVIEW

DR Kenneth Calman is the nation's doctor, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, who advises on health issues and helps explain policy to the public. He has had a busy week. There he was when Stephen Dorrell announced the new safe levels for drink. There again when Douglas Hogg held a press conference about BSE.

Calman works at the Department of Health and looks the part to perfection: a small, ever-so-slightly plump man with a light Glaswegian accent and surgeon's delicate hands. He was appointed Chief Medical Officer for Scotland at 42; by then he was famous as a cancer specialist, and for his unusual teaching style at Glasgow University. He used literature to teach students about the human side of medicine.

When Calman took his present post in 1991, he was widely thought an unusual and good choice, independent enough to resist becoming a Government stooge. But he has kept his head down, giving no interviews until now. Has Whitehall got to him?

His prognosis looks good. He does exhibit signs of monowhitehallcosis (he refers to himself as "the CMO" and rarely answers with a simple yes or no) but he is not a terminal case. He is likeable and unexpectedly feisty. Stung by the charge that the Government spends far too much time prescribing bossily, Calman retorts that the media take things out of context. He then gives a long account of what was really being said about how many potatoes you should eat in a day, saying, with a smirk: "I think you deserve to hear this."

He criticises the press for the recent Pill scare, which the Lancet yesterday blamed on Calman. He says the media sensationalised the announcement that certain Pills had a small increased risk of thrombosis. "We said women should discuss it with their doctors. It was a very simple message but it was blown up into a Pill fears story."

Now we are all scared about beef, although the Government insists there is no evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans, it also regulates to ensure certain bits of cow are not eaten by us. And its regulations don't always work — Douglas Hogg admitted that bits of cow spinal cord had got into our food. This means, as Calman concedes, that certain products using Mechanically Recovered Meat may contain banned beef bits.

"The whole issue," he says, "is whether it makes any difference and all the evidence we have is that it doesn't make any difference . . . there is also an issue of personal choice. We say that beef is safe. That is not to say, please go and eat beef. All we say is that, on all the evidence, we believe it is safe. Safe, that is, up to a point. We take the science and stretch it as far as we can and then give the best possible advice we can. Almost everything the department does is about risk issues . . . The public benefits of vaccination are enormous . . . But within that process a very small number of people may have had allergic responses. The public has to make up its mind."

That we should all accept a level of risk?

"I don't have a fast car — but people do."

Surely he can't be suggesting we treat buying beefburgers as an exciting game of chance?

"Hang on," he says, holding up his hands. "Let me finish. Where it is much more difficult for people is where the risks are externally imposed. If you see BSE as an externally-imposed risk, over which you have no element of control, then people will have to accept that they should make up their own minds. Clearly, the Government needs to do what it can to reduce the risk as much as it can . . . but individuals have to recognise that very little of what we do is totally safe."

Including buying beef?

Calman nods. "But for lots of reasons, not just BSE. If you ate beef every day, it wouldn't be a balanced diet. It is up to you to decide what to do. You make these choices all the time. Same with sensible levels of drinking."

Ah, the boozer's charter; Dorrell says we can drink a little more.

"I don't think that is what he said." Calman sighs. "He was not encouraging people to drink more. What he was saying was that the evidence is that if you are a woman and drink two units a day, there is no evidence of harm. It is not saying please drink 14 units a week. What he then said is, if a woman drinks three units a day, consistently, then you are starting to get into an effect on health." Not perhaps a good idea to announce this just before Christmas?

"We continually try to be as open as possible. When you get something on your desk, you should get it out to the public. If we had waited until next March, we would have been accused of sitting on it. And the big change is that we have now shifted from talking about weekly units to daily units. It's very important to say at this time of year, particularly to young people, that binge drinking is not good for you."

Yet a number of medical experts — including Sir Leslie Turnberg, President of the Royal College of Physicians, challenge Dorrell's evidence. "He's a very nice man but I think he has made these comments without having the full report in front of him. Same with my friend, Sandy Macara [head of the BMA]."

But Calman's job is to defend government policy; he's a civil servant. "I don't see it as a civil servant's job. I have to be true to myself and be as honest as I can be, all the time. I don't think I have constraints. Inevitably, I become identified with the Government, and I am seen in a political context but I am not a politician. I can honestly say that over the past four and a half years, ministers have never not taken my advice on any health issue."

Hasn't he advised ministers to ban tobacco advertising? "You know very well that my advice to ministers is confidential . . . but of course I have . . . yes, I realised that they always take my advice, that this is the one issue on which they have not . . . My reason for accepting that in the short term, is that . . . if you look at what influences smokers' behaviour, price is more sensitive than advertising. But I cannot think of another example where my advice was not taken."

Does this mean that when Brian Mawhinney last year took exception to the candid tone of the Health Education Authority's sex guide for young people, that Calman approved the decision to ban it?

Calman lapses into Mandarin-speak: "Let me just clarify this issue of my advice being taken. There are issues of public health safety when ministers have not refused my advice. But there are other issues when I would not always expect them to take the advice of the Chief Medical Officer."

Calman also blusters a bit when asked whether the Government is becoming less nannyish on health issues. "I have difficulty with that phrase. I personally never had a nanny."

But he knows what nannyish means?

"I think I almost know what you mean, and you're not going to get me drawn on this . . . I think the public have a right to make up their minds. What we need to do is provide them with as much evidence as we can . . . I think the population is a highly sophisticated group. I think we give them much less credit than we should for understanding health issues. I believe the population of Britain wants to be healthy. And it is happening. It is remarkable how much it is happening. Yes, we have got some difficulties, but that's what life is like."

After 20 years of way laying male bimbos, Fiona Pitt-Kethley vows today to stay a one-man woman

I HAVE become known as 'the female Casanova", a title I awarded myself after clocking up a good many one-night stands while compiling a travel book on Italy, Journeys to the Underworld. "I'm not cheap, I'm free" was a slogan I coined for myself. Sex — good, bad or indifferent — was also the subject of many of my poems. Casanova never settled down; but as his female disciple, I have decided, after many a lay, to get married. Today.

Would his latter-day female disciple be any different? I went through years of dire poverty at the beginning of my writing career. One or two people hinted that I ought to marry a rich man to solve my problems. Conversely, I felt that marriage was something I would not touch until I had established myself. I could scrape by on a pittance by avoiding all new clothes, drinks and holidays in my twenties. But I couldn't ask anyone to share that existence with me or subsidise a better life for me.

That was one of the reasons all my flings were only flings and nothing more. The other reason was the sheer incompatibility of the men I slept with, who were usually young, beautiful, but daft as a brush. I satirised them and their chat-up lines in a poem, Dildoes. By my mid-thirties it had become a positive mission to find and have sex with an intelligent man. Being naturally greedy I wanted good looks, intelligence and good sex all in the same package. It took me half a lifetime to find it. It took me that long also to find affection and companionability. I could never swap dreams or stories in bed with one of those bimbos.

'The Bible was wrong, there are no wise virgins'

Women, unlike men, are in the awkward position of having their biological clock ticking away. An educated professional woman will probably not be able to establish a good career until her thirties. At this stage she may have to disrupt it thoroughly if she wants a family. Many women are choosing not to. Fewer than half of the girls I was at school with have chosen to have children. As one put it: "It was either a kid or the mortgage".

Yes, I would like a child although I am now 41. Fortunately late menopauses run in my family. My mother still had periods at sixty. I also have the example of a friend who went on to have an exceptionally bright and healthy child at 43. On the whole I do believe that it's better to have a father around. A marriage also simplifies the problem of what surname to give a kid.

While the hope of having children was one reason for getting married, making a public commitment was another, especially as our working lives force us to live apart, except at weekends. Marriage is a public statement of love and, in most cases one of faithfulness or loyalty, too. I wouldn't feel comfortable with the idea of an open marriage. I've seen great hurt caused by them. While the couple may find it erotic, someone somewhere gets hurt, even if it's only the other woman or other man.

One of the most annoying things about the politicians who consider we must all marry is that they never offer us any financial incentive to do so. If both I and my partner had been as poor as I was in my twenties we could certainly not have afforded the £25.50 for a marriage licence.

The cost of a civil marriage may not be as dear as a TV licence, but it costs more than owning a dog. Love on the dole may be possible, but marriage probably isn't. Why doesn't the Government make weddings free if they want to stop us all living in sin?

These days when various true blue Tories and churchmen keep spouting "family values" most of us feel like reaching for a sick bag or going out for a gang bang. But just what are "family values"?

Old-fashioned no-sex-before-marriage and the little wife staying at home to mind the kids? If so, then I don't want any part of that. If, on the other hand, "family values" mean two people being kind to each other and living a life of mutual support, then immediately the whole proposition becomes more attractive.

The sowing of my wild oats lasted slightly over 20 years, during which time the nearest I came to having "family values" was enjoying three handsome brothers one after the other. I have no regrets about being experienced. Practice makes perfect. The Bible is wrong on one point. There is no such thing as a wise virgin. As I enter marriage this weekend, of course I want it to last for life. At the same time I acknowledge that divorce is not always an evil. Perhaps if the Wests had not been such a close couple — "till death us do part" — Rosemary might have gone on to lead a more ordinary life with someone else. So much for their "family values".

The fear of divorce is now a deterrant to many couples embarking on marriage. If one in three marriages breaks up, then mightn't ours fail? I pointed out to my partner that nobody in my family had ever divorced and that I had a good track record in honouring my obligations, caring for sick moggies until the end. Would I treat a husband any worse than I treat my cat?

Years ago, TV researchers asked me if I was a "sex addict". I pointed out that a promiscuous woman is never that. She often has to endure periods of celibacy in between partners. Sex addicts are all married, wedded to their pusher. I am now entering the addict phase of my life . . .

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KEN RUSSELL (above) first put on his own version of Treasure Island in his back garden aged eight. Here he tells how he brought his child's game to the screen

This boy's own story

Island life . . . Ken Russell's Treasure Island substitutes Long Jane Silver (Hetty Baines) for John, while Jim Hawkins (Gregory Hall) has a touch of the young Ken TOP PHOTO: STEVE PYKE

AS A boy I didn't read books. Neither did my Mum and Dad. We read comics and magazines instead. And although my first love was undoubtedly The Rainbow, which featured an engagingly timid tiger called Tim, it wasn't long before I graduated to Film Fun, which was full of comic-strips illustrating the antics of assorted stars of the silver screen.

Most of them also turned up in Mum's Picturegoer, a cheap sepia-coloured magazine full of publicity stills and the latest Hollywood gossip. Soon I was reading that as well, for Mum and I were film fans. We used to go to the flicks three or four times a week when I was a kid, leaving Dad alone at home with his nose stuck in The Footwear Retailer Weekly. He worked in his father's shoe shop in Southampton, where I grew up.

In its heyday in the thirties my home town had 27 cinemas and like my near-neighbour, Benny Hill, I knew them all — from the lowest twopenny fleapit to the most grandiose fourpenny one. The Broadway, with its medieval murals and baronial tea-room.

But it was The Picture House, also known as "The Pick-Up House", that I remember most vividly — possibly because we rarely managed to sit through a programme without having to change seats. It was a great place for gropers. But Mum would put up with almost anything for an afternoon with Gene Autrey, "The Singing Cowboy". He often used to share a double bill with Old Mother Riley and her daughter Kitty. The fact that this cranky Irish washerwoman was played by a man in drag and Kitty was his wife in real life gave me food for thought, even at the tender age of eight.

Then, one day, The Picture House broke with tradition and showed a couple of supporting shorts and just one big feature film: Treasure Island, starring Jackie Cooper as Jim Hawkins and lovable Wallace Beery as Long John Silver. And for the first time in my life I wanted to come back for more. But as it was the last show of the week it wasn't possible. So I did the next best thing. No, I didn't read the book; I didn't know there was one. I did better. I recreated the entire film in my back garden.

Now in case you haven't yet discovered the delights of Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island or seen one of the many movie versions, it's about Jim Hawkins, a bright 18th century bar-boy who inherits, from a dying pirate he has befriended, the map of an island where "x" marks the spot of a fortune in buried treasure. How Jim gets to the island and outwits a gang of pirates, also after the loot and led by a one-legged rogue by the name of Long John Silver, has thrilled kids of all ages for well over a century.

So back to my back garden, which now became a multi-purpose film set. The rhodies and the roses provided the jungle, the toolshed doubled as the Admiral Benbow Inn and the old stockade, while our magnificent conker tree metamorphosed into The Hispaniola — as fair a ship as ever sailed the seven seas — with me shinning up the trunk to the crow's nest for my first exciting glimpse of Treasure Island.

My co-star in this mammoth production was not Mum, as you might have supposed — she wouldn't be seen dead in the garden — but Elsie, the maid. Oh yes, you could afford a maid on the £20 a week my Dad earned in those days. And she'd do anything to get out of a bit of housework, would Elsie. We shared all the parts between us: me playing all the goodies and she playing all the baddies, excelling herself in the sinister role of Long John Silver, wielding the kitchen broom (standing in for a cripple's crutch) like a lethal weapon. Her next big part was Maid Marian to my Robin Hood, when the conker tree became Nottingham Castle — but that's another story. Fade out on the garden of 31 Belmont Road, Southampton . . .

. . . Fade in on Room 508 in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, where I am writing my screenplay of Treasure Island between appearances at The American Cinematheque to introduce a retrospective of my films.

> Our conker tree metamorphosed into The Hispaniola, with me shinning up the trunk to the crow's nest for my first exciting glimpse of Treasure Island

It is the spring of 1995 and I've just been commissioned by Channel Four to direct my version of Stevenson's classic for family viewing on Christmas Eve. My aim is to tell the story from Jim's point of view, which is where I begin to part company with the novel, which splits much of the narrative equally between Jim and Dr Livesey — a senior member of the expedition. To my way of thinking, this is one of the major flaws in the book and I feel I'm doing Robert Louis a favour in rectifying it.

"My, the arrogance of the man," I hear someone say. "Hang about mate, there's worse to come," says I. Harking back to my early cinema-going days once more, I remember other childhood delights I can incorporate into my script to celebrate the night before Christmas.

Two favourites of those far off days were Walt Disney and Busby Berkeley, the great musical choreographer, and there will be tributes to these two geniuses on show: when Long Jane Silver gets her seven grubby seacooks — Speedy, Scrumpy, Humpy, Sleazey, Scurvey, Itchy and Poncey — all spruced up and ready for sea. So those of you familiar with Snow White and Roman Scandals will recognise my inspiration immediately. And did you notice the substitution of Jane for John back there? Yes, our one-legged, rascally buccaneer has become a woman. And how could it possibly be otherwise, with memories of Elsie ever fresh in my mind?

Did I hear someone remark that Stevenson must be spinning in his grave? I daresay he is — spinning with delight and probably kicking himself at the same time for not having thought of the idea in the first place. For, on reflection, I think the author himself might have had doubts concerning the absence of women in this tale of skulduggery among rude old seamen. Apart from Jim's Mum, who has little more than a bit part, there's not a dame in sight. Perhaps if Robert Louis Stevenson had read the true-life exploits of the notorious yankee pirate Anne Bonney, he'd have been tempted to follow my lead.

Then there's the treatment of our young hero, Jim Hawkins. Isn't he just a little bit prissey in Stevenson's hands, a bit of a sober-sides, especially when one remembers he served behind the bar in Mum's seaside pub? Wouldn't this plucky teenager have been just a little bit more streetwise than he is portrayed? Certainly, my Jim Hawkins will be. And he'll be a bit of a rascal, too, with a touch of impish humour, and I wouldn't be at all surprised if he doesn't end up looking rather like that eight-year-old acting out his fantasies in that small back garden in Southampton more than 60 years ago.

"Well, if that isn't the height of self-indulgence, I don't know what is!" I hear some mealy-mouthed Scrooge exclaim.

To which my reply is: "Save your spleen till next year, Scrooge — that's when The Muppets version comes out!"

Ken Russell's Treasure Island will be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday, December 24 at 7.30pm

Misfortunes of war

Television

Stuart Jeffries

THERE was a mood of sorrow and farewell at the close of the last episode of this series of **Dangerfield** (BBC1). You could tell because it was suffused with the sound of opera singer Dawn Upshaw, keening. It was hard not to imagine the production meeting: "I want the music to say eastern Europe, misery, gloom." "How about Gorecki, sir?" "Never heard of her. But she does sound *bloody* miserable. Get her on the phone."

On the runway, Dangerfield was saying goodbye to Joanna, the woman he loved. They winched the coffin of the Bosnian girl into the plane. Dawn gave it loads. The pair exchanged few words, but if he had spoken from the heart, Dangerfield would have said: "You're leaving me to go to work in Bosnia? On a transport plane? In *those* heels?"

If there's something risible about Dangerfield, it's that we're expected to take it seriously. Everything is so squeaky clean, from Nigel Le Vaillant's shoes to the Happy Families humour, that one could easily suppose it was written by the National Viewers and Listeners' Association, God bless them.

In this episode, Dangerfield was charged with looking *after a Bosnian orphan. In* Tim Prager's story, she became a pawn in the game of Dangerfield and Joanna's on-off romance. It was a strange way to deploy a fictional victim of the Bosnian war.

The girl (played by Elvira Supuk, a real-life Bosnian refugee) said little in English, but smiled very winningly. She was occasionally allowed to mumble a few words in Serbo-Croat, though, which we weren't meant to understand but which clearly alluded to the limitations of the General Framework Accord for Peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Joanna adored the girl. So much so she took her to Warwick and bought her a dress from what looked like British Home Stores' Balkan Peasant *range. The girl said some*thing in Serbo-Croat which obviously meant: "Very interesting — but surely nearby Leamington has better shopping facilities?"

It was all looking rosy for Dangerfield: he hadn't intended to use the girl as a romantic lure, but it was working out that way and that was all right by him. It was unconvincing: anyone else's head would have been turned by the man's well-appointed kitchen and his dexterity at chopping vegetables, but, oh no, Joanna had to have an adopted refugee, too.

Naturally, the girl died of heart disease, and so Amanda Redman's Joanna had to fly off to provide succour to the Sarajevans. Goodbye Amanda, we love you! Now can someone turn that awful *music off*?

Which is probably a regular complaint of the passengers at Victoria Coach Station. Mozart's horn concerto may have been broadcast over the PA to cheer up the passengers, but it seemed to be having the effect of Gorecki's Symphony of Sorrowful Songs: the staff were curt, the passengers tetchy and one bloke was taken off to help the *police with their inquiries*. He was a driver who allegedly hadn't been paid for months, so in protest he unscrewed the plastic panels over a coach's indicator lights. It wasn't so much a cry as a bleat for help.

Bus Stop (C4) was one of those "day in the life" documentaries that seem to be very easy to make and conveniently filled a half hour in the schedules. Typically, it focused on quirky personalities rather than dug for deeper issues.

"It's a microcosm of the world, to coin a cliché," said managing director Warwick Hillman. Coining clichés — just the kind of activity we can all do without. In fact, some of the microcosm was asked to leave: Bill, who was having a rest after selling the Big Issue at the station, was escorted by two men to the exit. "Go to the train station, Bill," said one, with bitter irony that Bill probably could do without.

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IAN KATZ talks to Robert Easton, Hollywood's man of a thousand accents

Speaking in tongues

Al Pacino . . . was taught a Cuban accent for Scarface

Jane Fonda . . . learned an Appalachian drawl

Arnold Schwarznegger . . . accent needed fine-tuning

Laurence Olivier . . . polished Michigan tones

YOU may have missed his seminal performance as a Klingon judge in Star Trek VI. You may have trouble recalling his Southern radio operator in Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea and struggle to pick out his voice from the soundtrack of Stingray. But chances are you are familiar with Robert Easton's work.

That's because, on top of being an actor of modest repute, Easton is the self-styled "Henry Higgins of Hollywood", the larynx behind many of the most memorable screen accents. Remember Al Pacino's Cuban in Scarface, Ben Kingsley's Brooklyn twang in Bugsy, Jane Fonda's Appalachian drawl in The Dollmaker? Eas*ton had a hand in each.*

With flowing silver hair reminiscent of an Eastern mystic and a silvery baritone to match, the 64-year-old Texas-raised Anglophile is the undisputed king of Hollywood voice coaches. When a director needs a Czech bank robber or a Kansas lawman, they get Easton.

He polished Laurence Olivier's rural Michigan for The Betsy and swapped Bryan *Brown's thick Australian for a* Scottish burr in Tai-Pan. Arnold Schwarzenegger's heavy Austrian accent was nudged into Russian English for Red Heat and Liam Neeson's Irish brogue transformed into a Kentucky drawl for Next Of Kin. One of the few actresses he has never coached is Meryl Streep but that scarcely matters: "Every time she does a new film, people say, 'Hey Bob, Meryl was great'."

That he would some day earn a living with his tongue would have sounded wildly improbable as the young Easton struggled through school, plagued by a heavy stutter. He believes the weakness forced him to concentrate harder on his speech and, by the time he was established as a young actor in the early 1960s, he was known for the range of American dialects he could mimic.

In 1961 he married a British actress and moved to England for three years, where he collected regional accents and studied phonetics at University College London. When he returned to Los Angeles, his coaching talent was in greater demand than his acting.

These days Easton reckons he can slip into any one of 50 or so dialects on demand and can muster another 50 within a few hours. With a day's notice, he claims, he can polish up another 100.

He is an obsessive researcher, scribbling notes on unusual pronunciations or new accents wherever he finds them. He has filled three notebooks, he reveals proudly, in the few days he has been in New York helping the British actor Ian Holm become a Brooklyn cop: "Cab drivers are a wonderful source." He also records *unusual dialects* on tape.

Easton adapts his coaching method to the style of the actors he is teaching. For some he produces tapes and devises My Fair Lady-style exercises. Others, such as Charlton Heston and Steve Allen, prefer to see their lines spelled out phonetically. A few prefer a physical description of what they should be doing with their vocal chords and mouth. Easton is withering about competitors who offer a more formulaic approach. "I've had to clean up after a lot of people."

He is reticent about his fees. He diplomatically declines, too, to single out any actor or actress for a particularly execrable screen accent. Suffice to say that Marlon Brando did not retain his services for Mutiny On The Bounty and Kevin Costner did not consult him on Robin Hood.

In general, he says, American actors struggle with English working-class accents while British actors find it easier to throw their voices across the Atlantic. His tallest order was to repair the soundtrack for the TV mini-series Shogun. The Japanese female lead spoke no English and said "odours" instead of "orders". After Easton spent three weeks *re-recording with her*, she was nominated for a Golden Globe.

Once a year he advertises in Variety by simply listing 100 or so of the stars he has coached. He is not averse to a bit of name-dropping in person, too. A single, anecdote-laden point winds up containing references to five thespian knights: he taught Sir Laurence to say "birthdee pardee"; helped Sir John with his Texan and devised a shrill ventriloquist's dummy voice for Sir Anthony in a film directed by Sir Richard. Sir Ralph got in there somewhere, too, though I forget how.

"One time I was in Munich and Charlton Heston long-distanced me. I coached him from my bathtub, taught him to be a Scot." Unlike a few of his clients, Heston has never hesitated to acknowlege Easton's help. His recently released autobiography contains five mentions of the voice coach. "I would have been delighted with one, I would have been ecstatic with two, euphoric with three but he gave me five great plugs."

Easton has much more time for Heston's generation of actors than a new breed of what he calls "narcissistic egoists". Some of the young stars he works with these days consider dialects all but unnecessary since they believe they have been hired to play themselves, give or take an inflection or two. "I don't know what the hell they teach them in some of these American acting schools and when I ask them they say, 'Like, to be true to my own emotions'." He calls it "the soiled underwear school of acting because these people soil their pants and think they've *achieved something*."

Arnold Schwarzenegger is a notable exception among the new generation of leading men. In the early part of his career, Easton helped him knock Austrian edges off his delivery. For Conan The Barbarian, he explained that it was better to plunder villages than to blunder them, and in Red Heat he advised against ordering a "crap cocktail". These days, of course, the Austrian accent is just part of the audience-pulling package, but that's OK. "Arnold has always been very kind."

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

With the riots focusing attention on Brixton – where West Indians first settled in London – Caryl Phillips, below,

talks to MAYA JAGGI about the struggle Caribbean immigrants had to win acceptance, the subject of his new TV series

Boat people . . . waiting at Victoria Station and, below, arriving on the Empire Windrush HULTON/DEUTSCH

Their long voyage home

WHEN the first boatload of West Indian migrants disembarked from the Empire Windrush at Tilbury docks in 1948 — many of them Jamaican veterans of the second world war — the London Evening Standard ran the banner headline "Welcome Home".

It was a welcome that was hastily erased in the indecent scramble to slam the open door. But as descendants of those pioneers insist that this *is* home, there are moves to dust off a forgotten chapter of Britain's history.

West Indians recruited as British citizens to help solve the post-war labour shortage in the "mother country" were soon disabused of any sense of belonging. But their largely British-born children have assumed a steadily growing prominence — attaining what the broadcaster Darcus Howe has termed an "ease of presence".

"Caribbean migration has had a phenomenal impact on this country," says the writer Caryl Phillips. "It's not just Moira Stewart and Trevor McDonald. The evidence of sea changes in British society is becoming overwhelming and undeniable. There's no major football team that doesn't have a player who's a descendant of those people who stepped off those boats. Yet people don't know their origins."

Ten years ago, Phillips's award-winning debut novel, *The Final Passage*, broke ground with its tribute to his parents' generation of West Indians who journeyed to England in the fifties in search of a better break. His travel book, *The European Tribe* (1987), spoke for many of his generation who were black and British in articulating his problem: "How . . . to reconcile the contradiction of feeling British, while being constantly told in many subtle and unsubtle ways that I did not belong."

He sees this week's Brixton riot as evidence that "the pain and frustration of feeling you don't have a stake in this society still exist for many black people", though that sense, he adds, and the link between civil disorder and poverty, unite black and white youth. "The fact that Britain's institutionally racist isn't going to be addressed in one, two or even three generations.

But the past 10 years, he feels, have seen a shift. "The years since I wrote *The Final Passage* have been crucial. Then, we weren't sure who'd leave. There were no black MPs, no black players in the England football team. Now it's evident Britain's become a permanent home for West Indians — the older generation are witnessing in their lifetimes inroads made by their children. This country's plunged economically, but there's a real confidence, too. It's seen the emergence of black people in politics, music, sport. Black men in suits, black women power-dressed with briefcases. Now it's okay to say this is home."

Phillips chose this time to adapt his first novel as a television drama — the first set in the fifties era of mass migration. Directed by Sir Peter Hall, with music by Linton Kwesi Johnson and Dennis Bovell, the two-part serial will be screened next year. Filmed partly in the Caribbean, it is now being shot on location in London. At a cost of £2.7 million for two 75-minute episodes, it is one of the highest-budget dramas ever commissioned by Channel 4.

The screenplay was triggered by a wistful perception. "It became clear to me that the generation of people who came over in the fifties was dying," Phillips says. "There are old people's homes in Yorkshire full of West Indians who are veterans of that period. Their contribution to Britain has been huge — and that of their children — though it's been undermined and trivialised by certain politicians. Yet the most important change in the social fabric of this country in the late 20th century hadn't been translated into its most powerful medium."

That transformation of British society through the increasingly visible achievements of black people may also explain why mainstream television audiences are thought ready for a drama about how those Britons, and their forebears, came to be here.

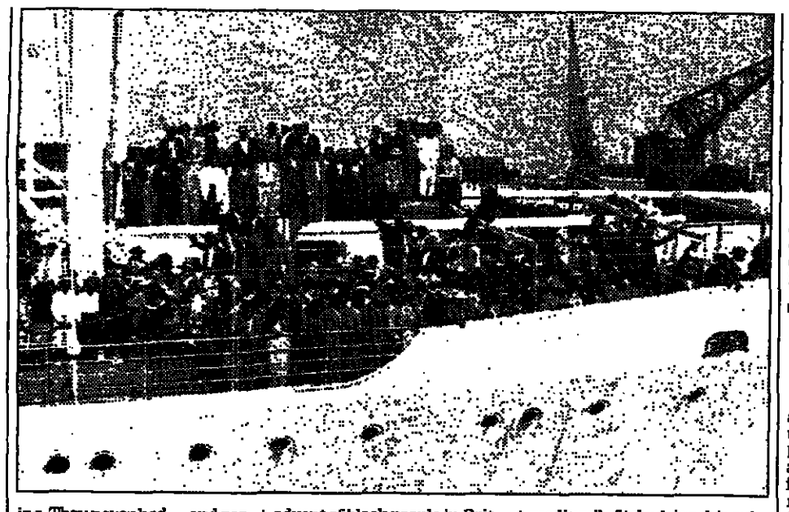
Peter Ansorge, head of Channel 4 drama series, who commissioned the project, says: "The serial depicts the Caribbean in a way that's never been seen in TV drama — not just rum and coke and sandy beaches, but as somewhere you might want to leave."

He adds: "People's memories are short. Lots of us have forgotten that the government was mad keen on immigration, that Enoch Powell helped in the recruiting drive. But Caz's script doesn't feel like documentary; by an act of recollection, something very moving is conjured up."

Caryl (Caz) Phillips was born in St Kitts in 1958 — the year *The Final Passage* is set — and brought to Leeds as an infant. Unlike West Indian novelists of the Fifties, such as Sam Selvon (who wrote *The Lonely Londoners*) and George Lamming, he views both sides of a mutual bewilderment at a time when half of Britain's white population had never seen a black person.

"I'm never one to peer over the fence in only one direction," Phillips says. "It's the privilege of my generation; I went to school here, I grew up here as a northern working-class kid. I've always been privy to the paranoia and anxieties of white people about the Other."

THE emotional linchpin is one migrating family. But, as with all Phillips's work charting the black diaspora in the spectral triangle of Europe, Africa and the Americas, its canvas is broader. "I hope it tells both sides of the story," he says. "As difficult as it was for West Indians in the fifties, with the expectations they brought, English people only a dozen years after the end of the second world war had no idea what the fuck was going on with all those black faces arriving. They never had — and perhaps never have had — it explained to them what those West Indians brought in their hearts and souls, their knapsacks and cardboard suitcases."



As the title of *The Final Passage* hints, West Indian migration was a sequel to the slave trade. The Middle Passage saw thousands of Africans dumped on islands whose resources, when the plantation economy collapsed, could not support them. "West Indians always have to flee beauty," says one character. "Whether to pick oranges in Florida, or help dig the Panama Canal, or fight the war."

The restless frustration of the islanders, and the ambition that drives the strongest of them to uproot painfully from their homes, friends and seductive landscapes, are viewed through that historical prism.

Phillips laughs off an allusion to Alex Haley's African-American saga — that he has written the British *Roots*. "If it is, it's only one episode," he says. "You'd need to begin at least with Liverpool, Cardiff, Bristol — the slave ports — and the servicemen in two world wars. We need to debunk the idea that this is the story of the advent of black people in Britain. Black people have been continously present here for five centuries; the first wave connected with slavery, the second with empire."

At the heart of Phillips's oeuvre — five novels, stage, screen and radio plays, non-fiction — is a passion for revisionist history, for "working against an undertow of historical ignorance". His latest novel, *Crossing the River* (1993), which won the James Tate Black Memorial Prize and was shortlisted for the Booker, movingly wrote black characters back into scenes — the Wild West, the second world war — from which they are habitually erased.

His purpose, he said then, was "to look at history from a different angle — through the prism of people nominally written out of it, or viewed as the losers or victims of a particular storm". Crucially, he added: "You take something people presume they know about, and make them look again. You subvert people's view of history by engaging them with character. I don't think you subvert it by arguing schematically about ideas."

In adapting *The Final Passage* to the popular, "reductive medium" of television, his subversive aim remains intact: "It's to recalibrate the main narrative of British social and historical life — or British people's perception of it — to include people whom they naturally exclude."

Part of that strategy is to make all viewers experience the characters' upheavals not simply as West Indians' history, but as British history — not just as "their" story, but as central to "ours".

British people, Phillips is apt to remark drily, know very little about their own history — not least because much of it took place in India, Africa and the Caribbean. He is editing an anthology on the seminal input into British literature made by writers born abroad (from Conrad and Eliot to Rushdie and Okri), entitled — in a phrase from *Othello* — *Extravagant Strangers*.

In its preface, he blames an amnesiac exclusiveness on "Britain's desire to promote herself as a homogeneous country whose purity is underscored not only by race and class, but . . . by a sense of continuity". It is as though the society perpetually absorbs, and engorges itself on, the nourishment of "outsiders", yet rebuts the debt in the way it perceives itself. "The mythological notion of Britain's identity needs to be turned on its head," he says.

Now Professor of English at Amherst College in the US, where he is dubbed — to his evident amusement — the "bard of the African diaspora", Phillips returns to British television drama after a gap of eight years. His production company, Heartland, is co-producing *The Final Passage* with Peter Hall.

THE year 1958 saw rioting in Nottingham and Notting Hill. As with earlier "race riots" the violence was white against black. In the drama, the riots are mentioned only in passing. Phillips says: "There's a tendency in television to go for the lowest common denominator. But you subvert expectations by *not* giving people what they want. They want to see race riots and pseudo-documentary, so you work against the grain. You get more resonance out of the personal."

Phillips's interest is in "the destruction of the family unit: it's the event black youth in this country are still trying to recover from — the unbelievable fatality of West Indian marriages, centred on the irresponsibility of the man, in which children are the losers."

Phillips's own parents divorced when he was eight, and his work sees the fracturing of families as both a metaphor for, and a prevalent condition of, migration. The women "literally and metaphorically left holding the baby" are often the focal points of sympathy. At 37, he is himself unmarried, without children — though, a compulsive traveller, he describes that as a corollary of his "itinerant problem".

Phillips's moral standpoint seems grounded partly in an awareness of the tough conditions of survival for migrants. "You change by degrees. You have to be aware of where you are . . . England is not a tolerant society and it's naive to think society must accommodate your values. There's give and play for any immigrant because you're going into something that's bigger than you.

"If kids can't stabilise themselves with an extended family, where there are no contacts with grandparents, it makes it difficult for the next generation — being brought up betwixt people, worrying about who they are — to reap the benefits and participate in this society."

As for the potential charge of pandering to stereotypes: "Some people will think, that's how they all behave; they'll want to see Harry Belafonte or Sidney Poitier — 'I'm as good as you'. But that's asking me to be politically correct, to redress the social imbalance in two episodes. Fiction isn't social engineering . . . I've always hoped there'd be more people of my background writing, because that takes pressure off you. You don't have people saying, why doesn't he show us in a better light; your writing would be contextualised by a body of work."

Phillips adds: "This country has serious failings in memory, but I hope black people feel proud to see a part of their story that's been written out of history. Despite morons like Paul Condon saying their children are muggers, Thatcher saying we don't want to be swamped by you, I hope they feel connected to Britain, the society they've invested their lives in."

While *The Final Passage* affirms that the sacrifices of the Windrush generation fuelled the strides of — at least some of — their children, Phillips is aware of the pitfall of seeming to relegate racism safely to the past. Yet he charts a real shift in a sense of belonging, of permanence, which works backwards to buoy those who blazed the trail.

"The word 'home' is played time and again. All my work is about that," Phillips says. In the book the woman protagonist, Leila, is told by her dying mother: "You're a West Indian. You've only got one home, and one home is all you'll ever have." But, some 35 years on, she in turn tells her son: "This England is your home and as long as it's your home, it's my home too."

What everybody in the world knows but us

RICHARD STOTT, who was editor of the Today newspaper, pleads for the same rights to tell the truth about Charles and Diana as they have

IT WAS, said Mr Justice Potts, a close-run thing: whether I should go to prison for re-publishing revelations about the Prince and Princess of Wales which Britain had already read.

Instead, he decided yesterday that the now-closed Today newspaper, which I edited, should be fined £75,000 — £50,000 from the paper and £25,000 from me — for revealing information that was long since available to the rest of the world.

The Attorney General, on behalf of the Prince of Wales, had demanded that I should be thrown into jail. It didn't half concentrate the mind. It was at first stomach-churning, a sensation gradually replaced by resentment and anger.

My crime was to publish a section of a book banned in Britain, The Housekeeper's Diary by Wendy Berry, who for almost a decade ran Highgrove for the Prince and Princess of Wales and therefore had a ringside seat at their domestic life. She first revealed her observations in the News of the World before Buckingham Palace obtained an injunction preventing her talking. To frustrate this injunction, she published a book in the US, where it has now sold more than 100,000 copies, and has since been serialised in the press in Europe, Australia and Japan — meaning that it is available to millions throughout the world. You can, of course, buy the book in America and bring it back here with impunity.

At Today, we believed that the European Court of Human Rights' unanimous decision to allow Peter Wright's book Spycatcher to be published in Britain on the grounds that it was already available to the rest of the world meant that Berry's book would be allowed publication under the same ruling. We were wrong. So yesterday we duly pleaded guilty to contempt of court after the advisors to the Prince referred our publication to the Attorney General for prosecution. Virtually everything we published had been reported before in this country. But that's the law and we accept it, daft as it is.

But why is this book banned? It is accurate, certainly more so than Spycatcher, and is the only independent account of events which both the Prince and Princess have made much of to justify their positions. As a former employee, Berry is prevented from revealing what she knows because of the law of confidentiality and contract. But are those of the Prince's courtiers who have campaigned against the Princess not also bound by the same strictures? Even if they had Charles's permission to say that his wife is mad, did they have Diana's? Now the Prince and Princess have both admitted affairs, is it not right that we should be given an independent view of events?

It is absurd that the rest of the world can read Berry's revelations while the country that pays the bills is kept in the dark because the Prince of Wales doesn't want you to know what the housekeeper saw. It is disgraceful that the Prince plays the courts in such a way that he can ban what he doesn't like, while giving the nod to those who would speak ill of Diana.

Berry is at present a fugitive who is silenced. She cannot return to Britain, because she would almost certainly be jailed for contempt of court. Meanwhile, the Prince and Princess can slag each other off in interviews, exclusives and photo-opportunities.

Can it really be right that the Prince of Wales is so keen to curtail the freedom of others — to the point of imprisonment — while he and his wife claim so aggressively the same freedoms for themselves?

It is time this abuse of privilege was stopped. A move should be made — probably by a newspaper — to vary the permanent injunction on Berry's book on the grounds that the Prince and Princess of Wales have quite deliberately destroyed their own — and each other's — privacy over a long and sustained period. We've had their views on how they wish to be seen by the public, let's see how the public — as represented by Berry — view them.

It's time for the country that pays the piper to call the tune. It's time to publish, and let's see who is damned.

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Vivian Blaine

Broad on Broadway

BROADWAY and Hollywood singer-comedienne Vivian Blaine, who has died aged 74, once said, "I put all my intelligence, such as it is, into playing dumb blondes like Miss Adelaide, but I am just dumb enough to have made it work." Miss Adelaide, the role with which Blaine will always be associated, was the chief doll in Frank Loesser's witty and vibrant musical, Guys And Dolls.

For those who weren't privileged enough to have seen the brassily enchanting Vivian Blaine on stage in the role at the 46th Street Theatre in New York, where she appeared for *more than two years* from November 1950, or during the year's run at the Coliseum in London in 1953, her performance has been preserved in Joseph Mankiewicz's colourful 1955 film version. As crapshooter Nathan Detroit's showgirl fiancée of 14 years, Blaine led the Hot Box Club chorus in an anthem of feminine defiance:

"Take back your mink to from whence it came,
Take back your pelts,
What made you think that I was one of those gelts?"

Other numbers included A Bushel And A Peck — replaced in the film by the raunchier Pet Me, Poppa — the duets, Marry The Man Today, and Sue Me, and her showstopping solo, Adelaide's Lament, in which she concludes that because of marriage postponements, "A poyson could develop a cold."

The part as written was a few lines of dialogue attached to two songs, but Blaine kept adding lines during the rehearsals, making Miss Adelaide into one of the strongest elements in the show.

Born Vivienne Stapleton in Newark, New Jersey, she started singing as a child at variety halls, booked in by her father, who was a theatrical agent. After graduating from high school she toured with big bands, until a talent scout from Twentieth Century Fox spotted the 20-year-old. One of her first roles was opposite Laurel and Hardy in Jitterbugs (1943) — having to compete with Stan in drag.

In 1944, because of the retirement from the screen of Alice Faye, Fox's leading blonde chanteuse, Blaine was given roles as a home-grown beauty *counterbalancing the* flamboyant charms of Carmen Miranda in two silly, cheerful musicals, Greenwich Village and Something For The Boys. But in one of the best musicals of the period, State Fair (1945) Blaine brought sophistication to hicksville as an unhappily married danceband singer whom Dick Haymes falls for, putting over the Rodgers and Hammerstein song, That's For Me, with real gusto.

With the ascendance of Betty Grable and June Haver — sweeter, less incisive blonde performers than Blaine — the studio let her go after Three Little Girls In Blue (1946), which co-starred Haver and Vera-Ellen. She then appeared in variety at the London Casino. It would be three years before her Broadway triumph in Guys And Dolls.

In 1952, Blaine took time off from Miss Adelaide to make Skirts Ahoy! at MGM, in which she, Esther Williams and Joan Evans put a twist on the usual plot by playing female sailors chasing men. "What good is a gal without a guy?" they sing.

A kiss for Miss Adelaide . . . Vivian Blaine and Frank Sinatra promote Guys And Dolls PHOTOGRAPH: RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Vivian Blaine echoed that sentiment by marrying three times. Her first husband, Manny Frank, became her business manager; her second, Milton Rackmil, was president of Universal Pictures and Decca Records; her third, Stuart Clark, was a businessman. Perhaps they found it difficult to keep up with her energy. Unlike her metropolitan screen image, Blaine loved the countryside, horse-riding, golf and tennis.

On stage, Blaine proved her versatility by taking on a few heavier roles, replacing Shelly Winters in the anti-drug drama A Hatful Of Rain in 1956, and playing Blanche du Bois in A Streetcar Named Desire in the 1970s, as well as touring in Woody Allen's farce, Don't Drink The Water, and in many musical revivals. But there was always a mo*ment in all her performances,* when one was unfairly reminded of the ever-lovin' Miss Adelaide.

Ronald Bergan

Michael Freedland writes: London theatregoers had good reason to identify with Vivian Blaine. It was dank and miserable outside the London Coliseum that winter of 1953 and when she sang, "A person can develop a cold" in Guys And Dolls, hundreds cheered her on.

She already had behind her an achievement given to few stage actresses — that of creating a role which not only was always to be identified with her, but which became much more important be*cause of what she did with it.*

Blaine had wanted the ingénue role of the Salvation Army girl Sarah Brown, but she was thought by the producers to be too brassy.

When they offered her the consolation prize of "ever-lovin' Adelaide" she grabbed it, then discovered it was virtually nothing more than the Take Back Your Mink song and a few lines of dialogue. She considered giving it up, but then decided to fight to make the role bigger. The character frequently eclipsed her lover Nathan Detroit, played by Sam Levine and when the show came to London it was obvious that Blaine would come with it. Along with Stubby Kaye as Nicely Nicely Johnson, she got the *best reviews. In 1955, when* the picture was made, it was inconceivable that anyone else would play Adelaide. Eleven years later, the show had a Broadway revival and once more it was Blaine sniffing through Adelaide's Lament. Her tough New York accent made her the perfect Broadway leading lady — with the emphasis on the word Broadway.

Vivian Blaine, actress/singer; *born November 21, 1921; died* December 9, 1995

Keith Runcorn

Attracted to the moon

PHYSICIST Keith Runcorn, who has been found murdered in California at the age of 73, was driven by enormous enthusiasm for his science. He was Professor of Physics Emeritus at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, a senior research fellow at Imperial College — involved with planetary sciences — and Sydney Chapman Professor of Physics at the University of Alaska.

Runcorn, renowned for the ease with which he could explain science, pioneered investigation of the history of the earth's magnetism, which is written as a "fossil" record in rocks. In the early 1950s, before this field of science won acceptance as palaeomagnetism, and working almost as a one-man expedition, he collected and integrated magnetic information from rocks, particularly from Europe and North America.

He showed that the large apparent shifts of the magnetic poles over millions of years could be best explained as an artefact produced by major relative movements of the continental land masses ("conti*nental drift"). This hypothesis* was not new but it remained highly controversial until, two decades later, it was confirmed by the discovery of seafloor spreading, and evolved into the science of plate tectonics.

Runcorn's interest in geomagnetism was triggered when, after wartime work on radar he joined Professor Patrick Blackett at Manchester University in 1946. Blackett had evolved his own theories of the earth's magnetism and had developed an extremely sensitive magnetometer. Runcorn built on this work when he became assistant director of geophysics research at Cambridge in 1950, setting up his own group and 10 years later producing the seminal paper Paleomagnetic Evidence For Continental Drift.

By this time he had become Durham's physics professor, moving in 1963 to Newcastle, where he remained until his retirement. He produced a flow of controversial theories relating to planetary crust formation and, for example, to molten core dynamics in the creation of planetary magnetic fields. The simple theory that the earth's magnetic field was created through the dynamo effect of its rotating molten iron core had been shattered by the emergence of fossil evidence, largely systematised by Runcorn, that *the earth's magnetic field* undergoes periodic and rapid reversals. He argued that this could be explained by a molten core that comprised two separate rotating components, or by a core in which there were convection cur*rents large enough to have the* same dynamic characteristics. The dynamo issue remains unresolved.

His expertise in magnetic phenomena led to his appointment as a Nasa investigative scientist for the Apollo moon landing programme and then for the interpretation of magnetic field information gathered. He was among the senior European scientists putting forward interpretations of the history of the moon from returned rock fragments at the first Nasa moon rock conference in 1972. His suggestion that the moon's magnetic field had grown very slowly and then faded away remains unchallenged and unexplained.

Runcorn went on to exploit residual magnetism as a means of suggesting planetary evolution, investigating and expounding theories on every discovery, such as the unexpected absence of a magnetic field on Venus, the unexplained magnetic fields of asteroids and minimal field of the planet Mercury. These formed part of the material of his last semester in Alaska. That expertise in planetary physics earlier led to his Newcastle department attaining the status of a Nato advanced study institute.

Runcorn was a vigorous speaker, a powerful supporter of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and a man who exerted worldwide influence through his students. He was physically strong, built like a stand-off half and, perhaps not surprisingly, a rugby enthusiast. He played at good club level until his late forties.

He was a great walker and a great talker, possessing an unexpectedly deep and rewarding knowledge of architecture, archaeology, ecclesiastical history and of sculpture and painting. He simply could not walk past an art gallery, and few Newcastle visitors escaped a tour of Durham Cathedral or a brisk visit to Hadrian's Wall. But though these were his enthusiasms, he was married only to his science.

Anthony Tucker

Stanley Keith Runcorn, physicist, born November 19, 1922; died December 6, 1995.
This obituary has already appeared in some editions of the *Guardian*.

Mohyedin Alempour

War and culture in Tajikistan

THE artist and BBC journalist Mohyedin Alempour, who was killed in a gun attack this week as he was about to celebrate his 50th birthday, was so loved and respected a figure in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan that the Tajik media reported his death as a national disaster.

Tens of thousands have been killed in Tajikistan since the Central Asian state gained nominal independence from *Moscow in 1991 and* descended into civil war, including more than 30 of Mohyedin's fellow journalists.

Although his life was threatened by one of the regional clans, he continued to work in the capital, Dushanbe. At the time of his death, he was one of very few independent voices still broadcasting — the state is now relatively peaceful, but ruled by an undemocratic neo-communist regime.

Mohyedin seemed larger than life in appearance and creative energy: a Tajik reincarnation of Charles Dickens. It was hard to keep up with him as he marched across town to the foreign ministry in his long winter coat, his thick grey beard catching the breeze. Unlike jaded western media celebrities, he loved being approached in the street by friends and well-wishers who *would stop him to say* hello.

Mohyedin was a poet, photographer and filmmaker, but best known as an impassioned arts commentator. He had become famous through Soviet television appearances, but when the USSR collapsed, shifted his allegiance to radio and the BBC's Persian service, where his broadcasting career took on a new lease of life. He presented a popular radio series in Tajik, From Dushanbe To Los Angeles, in which he travelled across America, interviewing personalities including the family of the last Iranian Shah. Back home, he lived in a small flat in an ugly Soviet tower block in the centre of Dushanbe. But once one had climbed the seemingly endless stairs one *could expect to be warmly* welcomed into his shrine to Persian culture.

His walls were plastered with pictures of the Persian artists he most revered, including the seventies Iranian pop star, Gougoush, who formed the subject of Mohyedin's last book. He was also immensely proud of his associations with the BBC and Britain. Among his most prized possessions — only revealed after lunch — were a tin of English biscuits and a bottle of Scotch, obtained during his last visit to Bush House.

Unlike Tajikistan's current regime, which drove Islamic forces into neighbouring Afghanistan to end the civil war, Mohyedin didn't regard resurgent Islam as a threat, but rather as an expression of long-suppressed indigenous culture.

He pointed out that Persian-speaking Tajiks were Sunni Muslims, unlike the Shia of Iran. He admitted that after Tajikistan's independence, Islam was like a "sweet stolen fruit", but that three years of clan warfare between the Moscow-backed government and an Islamic-democratic alliance meant that most Tajiks now wanted religion and politics kept far apart.

While a fifth round of United Nations-sponsored peace talks between the government and exiled opposition dragged on this week, Mohyedin died in possession of a remarkable faith that his country's deep wounds would one day be healed. "People consider the civil war a tragedy," he told me, "but perhaps it will lead to progress in democracy. We have come to learn that our *main purpose should be* unity."

When we met earlier this year, he had given up writing about Tajik politics because he said it was too dangerous and there was no press freedom. He accused fellow Tajik journalists of having used the context of the civil war to settle personal vendettas by killing one another.

It is still unclear whether Mohyedin's own murder was *political or the result of a* private dispute, but the Tajik government's unusual delay in making an official statement suggests the circumstances of his death were controversial.

Mohyedin Alempour was buried by his family on Thursday in the snowbound Tajik village of Aini in the mountains north of Dushanbe. He leaves behind his wife, Osak, and three children. His multitude of friends inside and outside the country will grieve for this immensely likeable renaissance man.

Renaissance man . . . Mohyedin Alempour

Jonathan Rugman

Mohyedin Alempour, Tajik artist and journalist, born December, 1945; died December 12, 1995

Weekend Birthdays

DESPITE impeccable right-wing credentials, **Dominic Lawson**, 39 tomorrow, has been the butt of some fierce, some might say abusive, assaults from what you'd think were his natural friends. The latest attack came from Alan Clark, who greeted Lawson's move from the Spectator to edit the Sunday Telegraph by describing his appearance as "loathsome and sneering".

Lawson doesn't deserve this stuff. In his palmy days at the Spectator, he took on left and right — sinking Nicholas Ridley, stirring up the Jews in Hollywood and scalping our own Richard Gott. In the process, he pushed the maga*zine's circulation to unprece*dented levels. He combines unlikely qualities: a brainbox chess player at ease in high society. An ardent meritocrat, whose father was Thatcher's chancellor. Honest and brave enough to take on the pro-choice lobby over terminations for disabled children (his daughter is a Down's syndrome victim), yet so swollen with paternal vanity that he called her Domenica. Few on the right mix arrogance and nonchalance with such style. Against all the odds, he manages to be amusing, sincere, and likeable, too. **BWJ**

Today's birthdays: **Benny Andersson**, Abba singer, 49; **Prof Sir Harold Bailey**, Sanskrit scholar, 96; **Michael Blackburn**, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 54; **Quentin Blake**, artist, illustrator, 63; **Norman Blamey**, painter, 81; **Arthur C Clarke**, science fiction writer, marine explorer, 78; **Myrella Cohen**, QC, circuit judge, 68; **Prof Bernard Crick**, political scientist, historian, biographer, 66; **Peter Dickinson**, author, 68; **Joel Garner**, cricketer, 43; **Heather Hallett**, QC, director of public affairs, the Bar Council, 46; **Tony Hicks**, rock guitarist, 50; **Sir Jasper Hollom**, former deputy governor, Bank of England, 78; **John Kirwan**, rugby player, 31; **Stephanie Lawrence**, singer, actress, 42; **Trevor Pinnock**, harpsichordist and conductor, 49; **Sir Victor Pritchett**, author and critic, 95; **Lt-Gen Sir David Scott-Barrett**, chairman, Army Cadet Force Association, 73; **Rodion Shchedrin**, composer, 63; **Jacqueline Thwaites**, head of the Inchbald Schools of Design and Fine Arts, 64; **Liv Ullmann**, actress, 57; **William Whatley**, trades unionist, 73; **Lt-Gen Sir Roger Wheeler**, general officer commanding and director of military operations, Northern Ireland, 54.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: **Simon Bates**, disc jockey, 48; **Peter Blackburn**, chairman, Nestle's UK, 55; **Dame Mary Cartwright**, FRS, mathematician, 95; **Christopher Cazenove**, actor, 50; **Penelope Fitzgerald**, writer, 79; **Lord Glenamara** CH, former Labour minister, 83; **Brian Hayes**, radio presenter, 58; **Bernard Hill**, actor, 51; **Kerry Packer**, Australian television magnate, 58; **Sir Leonard Peach**, chairman, Police Complaints Authority, 63; **Robert Robinson**, broadcaster, 68; **Peter Snell**, athlete, 57; **Tommy Steele**, singer and actor, 59; **Prof William Stewart**, former vice-chancellor, Keele University, 80; **Baroness Strange**, author, 67; **Cecil Walker**, Ulster Unionist MP, 71.

Letter

Len Clarke writes: Bob Ellis's refreshingly frank obituary of Sir James Darling, my old headmaster at Geelong Grammar School *(December 9)*, might perhaps have made more of the cultural gap between himself and most of his *pupils, a gap which made his* task even more difficult. I was one of only half a dozen or so boys in the senior school who congregated most Sunday afternoons in the very early 1940s, in the record library of the splendid music school, to listen to anything from Strauss to Borodin or Beethoven. Yet we represented little more than one per cent of the senior school establishment: many of the boys were wealthy graziers' sons who — *to judge from the scramble for* the sports pages — were far more interested in horse-racing (admittedly because their fathers may have owned the horses) than in culture.

At some time I was in the large and well-equipped blacksmith's forge by the excellent art school, when the Boss — as Darling was known — stopped to chat. He remarked, rather sadly, that although it was a Sunday afternoon and the art school was fully equipped even down to the printing presses, I was the only boy he had seen there. I forebore to tell him *that I was* only there because of the need for a new poker in the common room.

Death Notices

BALL, Dr Don. Died peacefully in Bristol on December 14th surrounded by his family.

BROWN, Rev. Francis Henry of Ferrers Way, Allestree, Derby passed away on December 14th 1995. Funeral Wednesday 20th December. Any enquiries to G Walthall & Son Ltd (01332) 345258.

COWAN, Lionel, died peacefully on 14 December 1995 aged 90. Memorial service 4pm Sunday 17 December, Menorah Synagogue, Sharston (telephone 0161 428 7746).

In Memoriam

SANGSTER, Vernon. On December 17th 1986, my very dearly loved husband. Treasured memories and always so sadly missed. Peggie and Family.

■To place your announcement telephone 0171 611 9060

Face to Faith

The Koran for our times

Saba Risaluddin

WHEN I was still nominally Christian I used to think how curious it was that, in an era of widespread literacy, many English churchgoers had come to be deprived of the magnificent language of the King James Bible and the Prayer Book. We were told that fewer people were going to church because they couldn't understand the service and the scriptures; using nice modern language would bring back the defectors. But if the uneducated masses of earlier centuries could cope with 17th-century prose, why can't the educated manage it in the late 20th?

Then I became a Muslim, and came face to face with the potent language of the Koran which dates from much earlier than the King James Bible, but is in Arabic. Though there are many interpretations of the Koran in a variety of languages, Muslims hold tenaciously to the belief that it is basically untranslatable. I have come to share this belief. Even the little Arabic I have acquired has shown me how subtle, rich and many-layered a language it is. Most people agree that to translate a literary masterpiece, Shakespeare or Goethe, is extraordinarily difficult; imagine then how problematic it is to translate the word of God.

Yet of the world's one billion Muslims, the majority, like myself, have only a limited knowledge of Arabic. We may appreciate the beauty of the sound — Koranic recitation is one of Islam's great art forms — but the meaning is barely accessible without an interpreter. Furthermore, [illegible] has done so much to interpret Christianity to its unlettered followers, does not exist in Islam. The word is all.

There is an evident tension, then, between God's word being untranslatable and needing to know what God says in order to obey His will.

Islam, like Christianity and Judaism, is a religion "of the book" — that is, based upon the divine word. Christianity had its arguments about translation centuries ago; within the post-Christian world much of the debate centres not on the words themselves but on the locus of authority. For the more ardent believer, authority is in the scriptures, but for the Enlightenment mind, human reason became sovereign.

All three faith traditions fed the intellectual strands that led to the Enlightenment: but [illegible] Islam alone is per[illegible] ceived as an alien culture whose scriptures are impenetrable (even in "translation") and whose followers are fanatically religious. It was not always so. Western culture would not exist in its present form if Islam had not influenced Christendom over the centuries. It was capable of doing so, not only because of its own great intellectual attainments, but because there were — despite the political differences between the two civilisations — many shared metaphysical assumptions. From early on, Muslim thinkers seized the concepts of Greek philosophy and of Neoplatonism and made them their own, with a new vocabulary to represent the new, Islamic understanding.

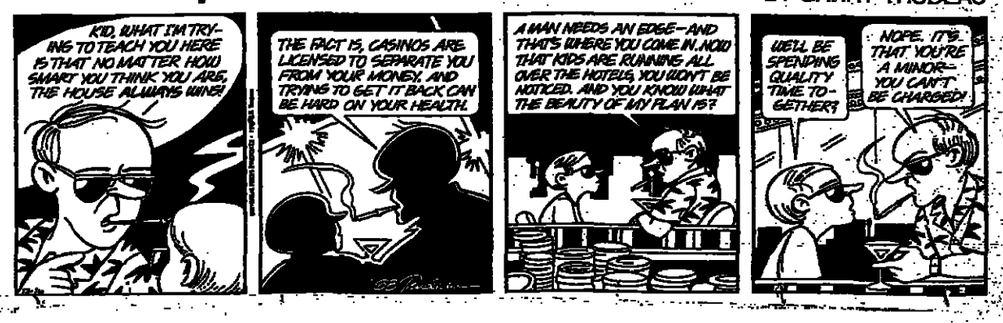
These Muslim achievements, in turn, fed two great strands of western thought: first, the medieval Christian theology of St Thomas Aquinas and indirectly through Jewish philosopher-theologians such as Ibn Gabirol and Maimonides; and second, the Renaissance, which could not have happened if Muslims had not preserved, developed and transmitted the learning of the Greeks. Lesser strands of influence can be perceived: the courtly love tradition of the troubadours drew upon the Arabic secular poetry of Muslim Spain, and in turn influenced Dante and Petrarch.

How is it that we 20th century Muslims have failed to explain ourselves and our faith anew to the Western mind? In part it is because we take for granted our common scriptural and Hellenistic heritage, but have failed to understand the Enlightenment rejection of revelation. There is hardly any real intellectual engagement between Muslims and the West now; we meet almost solely at a superficial cultural level. This superficiality is exacerbated by modern technology, with which we Muslims have a deeply equivocal relationship; we are at once fascinated by it and at the same time we reject the cultural hegemony it represents. Despite the ubiquity of satellite television, with its culture of images and sound-bites, we have failed to understand its impact. Images of the actions of a minority, who express their opposition to the status quo in violent terms, appear with distressing frequency on our televi*sion screens.* To seek to counter this by appeal to the Koranic text is an instinctive Muslim reaction. But it falls, too often, on ears that are deaf to the authority of scripture.

Saba Risaluddin is a founder of the Calamus Foundation, which is dedicated to improving relations between Muslims, Christians and Jews.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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Money Guardian

Why savers must dig deep to prop up house market

Margaret Hughes and Cliff Jones

MORTGAGE borrowers may feel they can splash out a little more on their Christmas shopping this weekend after another surprise cut in rates.

House-builders and estate agents are also more cheerful. They are cautiously optimistic that this third cut in mortgage rates in a little over three months, which has brought borrowing costs down to their lowest level in almost 30 years, will finally produce the pick-up they have been yearning for. Some remain sceptical, and are calling on the Chancellor to cut rates again early in the new year.

But savers — who far outnumber borrowers, by four to one — will be hanging on to their purse strings. Banks and societies have yet to announce their new savings rates. Savers, the bulk of whom are pensioners, will feel the pain in the new year when the impact of two mortgage rate cuts will hit their pockets. The cuts are likely to wipe out all the gains they expected from the Chancellor's Budget decision to cut the tax rate on savings from 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

This was supposed to have improved their lot in April, but by then interest rates may well have been trimmed further.

The Halifax Building Society led this week's mortgage rate cuts, immediately matching the quarter per cent drop in bank base rates. Britain's biggest mortgage lender cut its standard variable mortgage rate from 7.74 per cent to 7.49 per cent and was quickly followed by other major societies, which mostly matched its new rate, as did most smaller societies.

Once again, the Nationwide undercut many of its rivals with a drop to 7.44 per cent. Northern Rock has matched this by also dropping to 7.44 per cent, while the smaller Newbury Building Society went even lower, to 7.29 per cent.

But yesterday the Cheltenham & Gloucester, now part of Lloyds Bank, undercut all other rates from branch-based lenders by reducing its standard variable mortgage rate to 7.24. Chief executive Andrew Longhurst said: "C&G continues to give borrowers the guarantee of a lower base mortgage rate than they'll find from any of the other big lenders."

Savers will feel the pain in the new year when the impact of the cut hits their pockets

Telephone providers Bradford & Bingley Direct, Direct Line and First Direct dropped further still to 6.7 per cent.

Abbey National was the first bank to cut rates when it introduced a new tiered rate starting at 7.54 per cent for loans up to £60,000 and dropping to 7.49 per cent for loans up to £100,000, above which the rate falls to 7.44 per cent.

Midland, Barclays, NatWest and the TSB later lowered their rates to match the Halifax. Lloyds, which refers all new borrowers to C&G, has still to cut rates for existing borrowers.

Since early September mortgage rates have fallen by almost a full percentage point from 8.35 per cent. This reduction represents a monthly saving of £31.09 on what borrowers with a £60,000 repayment mortgage would have paid at the beginning of 1995.

It brings their monthly payments down to £407.20, compared with the £695.85 they were paying in March 1990, when mortgage rates reached their peak. New borrowers will benefit from the latest cut immediately, and will be able to top this up with any available discounts. This is particularly true for first-time buyers, who are offered better discounts.

Existing borrowers will see the benefit from February, but those on annual review will have to wait longer. Most Halifax borrowers have their mortgage payments reassessed in February, but will have to wait until April before their payments are adjusted. However, the Halifax says that borrowers who wish to benefit sooner should contact their branch to have their mortgage removed from the annual review system.

Money Guardian is edited by Margaret Hughes

How borrowers benefit

Change in monthly payments since home loan peak

Loan size	March '90 15.4%	Now 7.49%	Saving
Repayment Mortgage			
£30,000	£308.84	£202.44	£106.40
£60,000	£695.85	£420.09	£275.76
£100,000	£1,223.85	£718.86	£504.99
Endowment Mortgage			
£30,000	£288.75	£159.18	£129.57
£60,000	£673.75	£346.43	£327.32
£100,000	£1,187.08	£596.10	£590.98

Endowment figures exclude insurance premiums. Figures take into account the relevant Miras charges Source: Halifax

Societies facing big trouble over their small print

Richard Colbey

BUILDING societies could find themselves facing court action for overcharging borrowers unless they alter the way they calculate interest.

A number of mortgage lenders have recently come under fire for failing to reduce the outstanding capital balance on loans as borrowers make their monthly repayments. They only credit capital repayments to mortgage accounts at the end of each year, so borrowers are charged interest on money already repaid. As a result, the average balance on which interest is paid is higher. This can add about £2,000 to the cost of an average £60,000 mortgage over 25 years at current rates.

Those lenders who credit capital payments annually, such as the Halifax, predictably rely on the small print to justify their actions. The conditions which, they claim, entitle them to do it are in their rule books or standard terms and conditions.

Often these are not even seen by borrowers, who are merely told that their mortgage will have a certain interest rate. They would assume that interest was going to be charged on what they actually owed: not on money that the lender had not, for reasons of its own, credited to their account.

For mortgages taken out after July this year the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations will apply. Under these regulations, doubtful clauses are to be construed in favour of the consumer.

The regulations do not affect the right of a lender to charge so long as that is expressed in "plain intelligible language". Obscure complicated clauses, giving lenders rights that would surprise most borrowers, will almost certainly be deemed unfair and hence void.

Earlier mortgage agreements may not be subject to these regulations, but the Unfair Contract Terms Act applies to those taken out since 1977. This Act prevents a business relying on small print to render a contractual performance substantially different from that which a consumer might expect.

Whether or not the typical amount overcharged on a mortgage because the capital is not credited until the end of the year came within that Act might be a moot point.

Agreements that appear to be unfair under the regulations can be brought before the courts by the Office of Fair Trading, which has the right to seek a declaration that a certain term is unfair and hence void. The OFT does not have any, let alone an exclusive, right to enforce the law itself. It has indicated a willingness to consider any complaints made to it by consumers about this matter.

People can, however, bring claims against lenders for their money back, relying on the regulations and the Act, something the OFT is not able to do on their behalf. Borrowers could even refuse to repay the proportion of their mortgage which represents the overcharging.

The lender would then have to take action to recover the amounts. While lenders might in those circumstances add a possession claim, no court would make that order where there was a genuine dispute about the amount owing.

The Council for Mortgage Lenders warns that forcing building societies to reduce debts on a monthly basis would result in higher interest rates. The CML director general Adrian Coles said: "It is all included in the annual percentage rate, so borrowers are given the true picture if they compare APRs."

Nevertheless, some banks and building societies, including Barclays and the Yorkshire Building Society, are considering altering their method of calculation.

Richard Colbey is a barrister

Perks to ease the shopping burden

Cliff Jones

THE Christmas lights twinkling in town centres around the country this weekend will probably give shoppers mild financial panic, although people taking advantage of sales could increase their bargaining power by offering to pay cash rather than by credit card.

And shoppers should check their share portfolio before they start haggling; many companies offer discounts in the form of shareholder loyalty perks.

High street retailers typically require investors to hold a minimum number of shares before they are entitled to such discounts. For example, shareholders with the Burton Group must have at least 1,000 ordinary shares to qualify for a shareholder card and 12.5 per cent discount. The card can be used in all the stores which are a part of the group, including Burton, Debenhams, Top Shop, Top Man and Dorothy Perkins. The discount may seem generous, but there are drawbacks.

The discount offered by the Burton Group is not quite as good as it may seem mainly because it requires an investment of more than £1,000 at current prices. Discounts are limited to the first £5,000 of purchases per year, so the maximum annual discount is £625.

All Laura Ashley shareholders were this year sent a voucher entitling them to 15 per cent off on any one purchase. The voucher was sent to investors regardless of the size of their holding in the company. This might seem like a bargain when a single share costs just over £1, but investors must remember the broker's commission, and that vouchers are sent out only once a year.

Shareholders with any size holding in the Signet group are entitled to a 10 per cent discount on goods and services from H Samuel, Ernest Jones and Leslie Davis.

Investors with more than 100 shares in Boots have been issued with 10 vouchers for £1 off purchases of more than £5 and Argos shareholders receive 10 per cent money-off vouchers with the company's interim report in August.

Frequent travellers can take advantage of shares offered by travel companies. One of the best perks, from P&O ferries, entitles shareholders to a 50 per cent discount on some cross-Channel routes. The minimum shareholding for any discount with P&O is 600 shares, which will cost just over £1,000. However, the company gives half the discount to shareholders with more than 300 shares.

British Airways issues a discount coupon to investors with more than 200 shares. Shareholders are entitled to 10 per cent off the price of any published fare for one flight per year. The coupon can also be used for a 5 per cent discount on any British Airways package holiday. This is a particularly good deal for people who regularly fly long distances.

● *A guide to shareholders' perks from stockbrokers Hargreaves Lansdown is available free to Guardian readers by calling 0800-850661.*

Play your credit cards carefully

Cliff Jones

CHRISTMAS shoppers should not rely too heavily on their credit cards if they want to avoid debt in the new year, despite two issuers cutting their rates.

Barclaycard cut the annual percentage rate (APR) on its Visa card by 0.3 per cent to 22.6 per cent. This is the first Barclaycard rate cut since January 1994. But read the fine print before heading for the high street, as the cut applies only to transactions made after January 1.

Save & Prosper followed with a rate reduction on its Base Rate card. The APR on the card, which has no interest-free period, was dropped by a quarter per cent to 12.1 APR. Cardholders will benefit immediately from the rate cut.

In general, card rates have remained high despite the rate cuts made by many lenders on personal loans and mortgage rates.

People who do go into debt and find themselves struggling to repay their creditors should seek advice from professional counsellors, rather than try to resolve the problem themselves.

Many debtors do not turn to specialist advisers because they fear facing up to their debt. Malcolm Hurlston, Chairman of the Foundation for Credit Counselling, says being in debt is an emotional as well as financial issue. He warns: "You can't ignore the problem of debt, because it has a nasty habit of getting worse."

The Foundation, which runs the UK Consumer Credit Counselling Service, was set up in 1992 and has centres in Leeds, Nottingham and Birmingham. The scheme has a national telephone helpline and just under a third of the callers are invited to join tailored debt management programmes to help them repay their creditors. Those not accepted for a programme are given more basic debt advice.

Customers who take part in the programmes agree to meet realistic monthly repayments which are distributed by the CCCS to the creditors. The company will also negotiate with creditors in an effort to have interest charges waived.

The service is paid for not by debtors but by the creditors, who each contribute 15 per cent of the sum recovered to the CCCS.

The first telephone debt hotline in the UK, National Debtline, was set up in Birmingham in 1987. The service this year received more than 36,000 calls. The number of inquiries made to the hotline rises by 20 per cent in the post-Christmas period due mainly to overspending on the household budget. Unlike the CCCS, the scheme is promoted as an information-only service. The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux runs a network of Money Advice Centres which also offer a free counselling service.

CAB advisers help debtors draw up financial statements which establish how much they earn. Advisers also explore other sources of income which the debtor may not realise they are entitled to, such as state benefits or tax rebates.

The CABs' main function is as advisory bodies, but they can negotiate with creditors in an effort to have charges waived.

● *The Consumer Credit Counselling Service Helpline, tel 0345-697301; National Debtline, 0121-359-8501; National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, 0171-833-2181.*

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Job cuts on way as Trafalgar makes a huge loss

Ian King

TRAFALGAR House, the crisis-hit engineering, construction and shipping conglomerate, yesterday signalled a string of sell-offs and redundancies after announcing full-year pre-tax losses of £321 million.

The loss was far greater than even the most pessimistic forecast of £200 million and represents more than Trafalgar's total market value of £263 million.

Announcing the results, Nigel Rich, Trafalgar's chief executive, said the group would be concentrating increasingly on its engineering businesses.

He said Trafalgar, which owns the QE2 and which recently sold the Ritz hotel, would be selling its American housebuilding and property activities, focusing its shipping division on the luxury market, and disposing of a number of other businesses.

But Mr Rich would not be drawn on how many jobs would go, apart from the 750 already earmarked for Davy, Trafalgar's metals engineering subsidiary, insisting that it was not an "easily identifiable" number.

Mr Rich — who assumed the helm last year — also refused to say whether Trafalgar, which has launched three rights issues in the past four years, would be announcing any more unpleasant surprises for shareholders in the near future.

He said: "When a business has been this badly run, you will uncover 'nasties', but we are endeavouring to ensure that we have some cover for the unexpected."

Mr Rich said Trafalgar's main aim over the next few years would be to wipe out its debt, which according to yesterday's figures, stood at £229 million at the end of September.

And he admitted that Trafalgar's mix of businesses, which were largely assembled in a series of aggressive acquisitions in the 60s and 70s, looked out of date in 90s' corporate culture.

He went on: "If I was putting together this company, I wouldn't have put these businesses together. What we need to do now is to focus the business to move forward, and to wipe out our debt position."

However, the City took a less sanguine view, knocking £22 million off Trafalgar's market value and sending the shares down 2p to 24½p.

Analysts said Trafalgar's share price would have tumbled further, had it not been for a show of support from Hongkong Land, which holds a 26 per cent stake.

Zafar Khan, an analyst at Société Generale Strauss Turnbull, and one of Trafalgar's sternest critics in the broking community, said the company's shares had been reduced to little more than a "punt" in the market.

He went on: "The patient has been stabilised, but the full extent of the injuries are not yet known. The company is essentially saying there is going to be no recovery for two years, and it's just a question now of whether you want to take a punt."

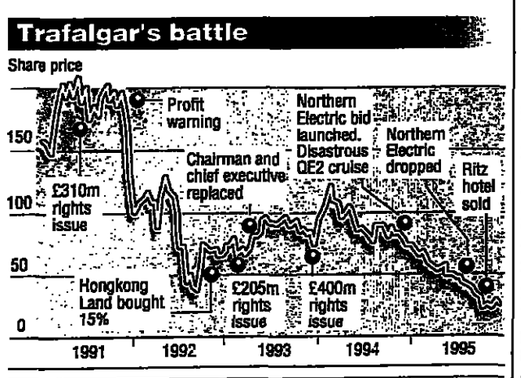
Among the £204 million in exceptional items which contributed to yesterday's loss, Trafalgar wrote down £93 million of value from its assets, including £79 million at the Cunard shipping line.

But Mr Rich declined to be drawn on rumours that Cunard, which was heavily criticised last year after the QE2's disastrous refit, was about to be put up for sale.

Also included in the exceptionals were £57 million in restructuring costs at Trafalgar's engineering division, £6 million of property write-downs, and the £12 million spent in an abortive bid for Northern Electric.

Describing his regret at failing to win Northern, Mr Rich said: "I wish we'd got it, as we would have had a better balanced business than we have now. But having not got it, I regret that we spent three months worth of time in not getting it."

But Mr Rich insisted that Trafalgar's programme, which focuses on engineering and construction, would be financed from existing bank facilities of £500 million and the company's cashflow, rather than from another rights issue, as had been feared.



Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, took part in a cornerstone-laying ceremony at the £1.1 billion Siemens semiconductor plant on Tyneside yesterday, *writes Martyn Halsall.*

The new plant will create around 4,000 jobs. Dr Heinrich von Pierer, president of Siemens, which is developing the world's most advanced microchip plant on an industrial park at North Shields, said experience showed more than one outside job was created for every job within Siemens.

The German company plans to employ 1,800 directly when production commences in 1997. The project, announced for the greenfield site in August was won against considerable international competition.

Siemens said the decision to locate the plant in north Tyneside "represents a significant landmark for both Siemens Semiconductor Group worldwide and the company's activities in the United Kingdom".

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE SCOTT

RBS shares leap on bid rumour

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

SHARES in Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday rose to an all-time high as speculation mounted that the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is mounting a takeover bid.

Royal Bank rose by more than 45p in early trading as rumours swept the market. Trading became so excited that the Scottish clearer was forced to declare formally that it was not in talks with any potential bidder.

But HSBC, the parent company of the Midland Bank group, helped keep the market trading by refusing to make any comment about its intentions. Royal's shares closed the day up 22p at 608p. HSBC slid 6p to 998p.

Traders close to the market insisted that HSBC was prepared to bid up to 750p. One dealer said that the value of the bid would be based on a 0.46-for-one shares swap between HSBC and Royal Bank plus £3 in cash.

The speculation follows months of rumours that Royal Bank of Scotland was vulnerable to a takeover bid. Analysts point out that it is a medium-size retail operator which lacks the critical mass to compete in a market increasingly dominated by big players.

"There is certainly something behind this. The market does not move like this just on tenuous takeover rumours," one leading banking analyst said.

Others pointed out, however, that HSBC could risk over-paying for Royal Bank at current share price levels.

HSBC has frequently said that although it does not rule out further acquisitions it has not been searching for takeover targets. A spokeswoman added: "If we had bought everybody that the press had said we would have bought this year, we have bought 19 banks around the world."

The latest bid speculation would appear to make it less likely that HSBC is poised to buy NatWest's Bancorp retail banking group in the US. Completion of the estimated $4 billion sale appears to have run into problems, although the deal could still be clinched before Christmas.

It is believed that negotiations have been slowed by the legal technicalities involved in the sale of a US bank. NatWest was last night unavailable for comment.

But there is speculation that Boston's Fleet Financial is the most likely buyer. Bancorp would allow Fleet to expand substantially its retail banking presence in New York state and the eastern seaboard.

Forte attacks Granada chief

Ian King

FORTE yesterday launched a personal attack on Granada chief executive Gerry Robinson, accusing him of running a "1980s-style conglomerate", and of making "astonishing and unsubstantiated claims".

Forte, for which Granada has bid £3.4 billion, said it was doubtful whether Mr Robinson had the management skills to achieve long-term growth in its businesses, and said several of Granada's own businesses were in long-term decline.

Granada immediately hit back, accusing Forte of making "pathetic" comments, and said the company had been "conspicuously silent" on the issues of profits and dividends.

The latest exchanges came as Granada, responding to a request from the Takeover Panel, distanced itself from press items, in which it was reported as saying that it could make £100 million worth of cost cuts in its first year at Forte.

In his latest letter to shareholders, Forte chairman and chief executive Sir Rocco Forte said Granada had no experience of running an international hotels business, and said its brands were "totally confused".

He went on: "Granada has failed to demonstrate any commercial logic for this deal or any understanding of our business. The slump in Granada's share price since the launch of the bid shows that there are increasing doubts about the wisdom of its hostile offer."

Forte also pointed out that last night's 3p fall in Granada's share price, to 632p, has brought it below the level at which Granada's City backers have underwritten the bid.

But Granada retorted that Forte had said nothing about its own profits, and had been panicked into making a number of rapid disposals, including its stake in the Savoy Hotel group.

Gerry Robinson added: "Forte's attack on us is lightweight and is not going to impress anyone. They are just going through the motions to deflect attention from their own failings, and the fact that they think our plan to improve its profits by £100 million a year is 'astonishing' says it all."

Meanwhile, there is growing speculation in the City that Forte is on the point of announcing another major disposal — either its US Travelodge business, which has been up for sale since September, or its chain of 72 White Hart hotels.

Islands to hold out Taiwan-style for the pound

Dan Atkinson

AS THE "Euro" was christened in Madrid, sterling lovers could take comfort from the fact that there are three small corners of the British Isles where the pound's reign will never end.

Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man have not so much opted out of the single currency as been forbidden to opt in. These Crown possessions are not part of the EU and are thus ineligible for the dubious privilege of using the Euro.

Even if Britain were to submerge the pound into a single currency, British banknotes would continue a Taiwan-style resistance from offshore.

All three territories print their own pounds and produce their own coinage. Strictly speaking, their currencies do not count as sterling, nor do they form part of the UK money supply. But there has never been any exchange rate between these islands and the UK mainland. Instead, the local governments take whatever measures necessary to hold parity between offshore and onshore pounds.

The Treasury confirmed last night that this had been the islanders' choice. There was nothing to stop them reflating wildly and devaluing their own pounds against sterling.

The peculiar position of these mini-currencies was highlighted after the Bank of England contacted the national press earlier this week to clarify the meaning of the phrase "legal tender", which it defined as a medium of exchange that creditors are legally obliged to accept in settlement.

Only £1 coins, it said, qualified without limit throughout the UK. Bank of England notes qualified in England, Wales, the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Scottish and Ulster bank notes were not legal tender anywhere. The issue and value of Isle of Man and Channel Islands money is very much a matter for the locals.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.02	France 7.37	Italy 2,420	Singapore 2.14
Austria 15.00	Germany 2.16	Malta 0.535	South Africa 5.46
Belgium 44.00	Greece 364.00	Netherlands 2.42	Spain 182.75
Canada 2.06	Hong Kong 11.72	New Zealand 2.33	Sweden 10.15
Cyprus 0.6975	India 53.81	Norway 9.56	Switzerland 1.74
Denmark 8.36	Ireland 0.9525	Portugal 226.00	Turkey 83,458
Finland 6.62	Israel 4.79	Saudi Arabia 5.76	USA 1.5075

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

Rocket-launching project will safeguard 1,500 jobs

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

A SEAGOING rocket-launching enterprise, which will safeguard the jobs of 1,500 workers at the Govan shipyard, Glasgow, for the next two years, will be agreed by an international consortium of companies in the next few weeks.

The £1 billion Sea Launch project is a joint venture which will produce a control centre for the world's first launch of commercial satellites at sea. The target date for the initial launch is the first half of 1998.

Kvaerner Govan, Britain's biggest commercial shipbuilder, which employs more than 4,000 staff in the UK, has won the first stage in a key contract worth £60 million to build the roll-on roll-off vessel that will be used as the support ship for the launch.

Sea launch rockets will be fired into orbit from a converted drilling platform in the Pacific Ocean. The vessels will be based at the Long Beach naval station in California, and the rocket launches will take place far out to sea.

Govan will design and construct the assembly command ship for delivery to St Petersburg in 1997. The rockets, built in the Ukraine and Russia, will be transported to St Petersburg and from there by ship to Long Beach.

Goal accepts £131m bid by Talisman in oil takeover

Pauline Springett

THE British oil company, Goal, accepted a £131 million takeover bid from the Canadian oil group Talisman yesterday.

The offer of 97.5p a share, subject to shareholder approval, represents a 43 per cent premium on the price prior to the announcement earlier this week.

Goal is a small oil and gas company which operates mainly in the UK part of the North Sea. Its portfolio of minority stakes in small UK and Dutch fields would boost Talisman's output by 11 per cent.

Talisman, based in Calgary, said it was keen to develop smaller fields. "With a lot of the small fields that are left, the BPs of the world just aren't very interested," said James Buckee, Talisman's chief executive.

Many smaller North Sea fields remain untapped because big oil companies will not consider deposits holding less than 100 million barrels.

Institutional shareholders holding 45.5 per cent of the shares, have agreed the bid although one third of could pull out if a higher bid emerged.

Mr Buckee said Goal's value to Talisman was not necessarily the promise of big discoveries. The purchase would allow Talisman to swap assets with others to boost its stakes in core assets.

Saturday Notebook

Tiptoeing towards single currency

Edited by Alex Brummer

THE blueprint for the single European currency, the Euro, approved by heads of government in Madrid, adds a degree of certainty to the process leading to monetary union.

The debate over the name of the single currency has been peculiarly sterile, and the spat over whether the decision date on union should be late 1997 or early 1998 — when actual economic data for 1997 will be available — has been a sideshow, diverting policy-makers from more complex issues.

Among the most critical of these is how the markets will behave between now and January 1, 1999, when the first group of qualifying countries lock exchange rates. Another question is: at what point in time will individual governments transfer their new bond issues into the Euro?

The real concern for the union will not be the breakaway group of countries which meet the convergence criteria, but the majority who stay outside. Arguably these will divide into two groups: those, possibly including the UK and Denmark, which qualify but have opted for political or other reasons to stay out for the time being; and a second group consisting of those in the nursery system hoping to graduate into the fast track.

The first group ought to be reasonably secure, in that they meet the convergence criteria anyway, although there may be concern that their monetary policies will be less tough than that of the European central banking system where German influence will be paramount. The others are looking to a security net, similar to the ERM, in which the European central bank could come galloping to their rescue. Not a happy prospect given the past.

Meanwhile, Germany — which will be in the lead group, if and when EMU happens — is keen to slow down the process of issuing their new debt in Euros, preferring to stick with deutschmarks.

Given that it is German monetary credibility on which the Euro will fight in the global context, this will not be considered an overwhelming vote of confidence.

Branson spat

ANYONE familiar with the US gaming industry would acknowledge that it is not a known refuge for choirboys. Britain would not want its own super-clean gambling industries tainted by the big guys from Las Vegas and Atlantic City. And that is almost certainly why the Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley has encouraged the National Audit Office to take a second look at Camelot shareholder GTech, the world's biggest supplier of lottery services and eqipment.

For most business people an inquiry, by such a trustworthy organisation as the audit office, would be enough. But Virgin's Richard Branson is demanding more by taking legal action against GTech, for its charges that he was telling untruths over bribery allegations. That, of course, is Mr Branson's right. But the renowned Virgin boss is in danger of being seen as a whinger and a sore loser.

He continues to pursue British Airways in the US courts, even though the "dirty tricks" campaign and those who masterminded it long ago dropped into oblivion. He is seeking judicial review of the decision to award the Channel 5 franchise to a consortium involving MAI and Pearson and now is going to court over GTech. This is great for the lawyers and for keeping Virgin in the headlines. But perhaps Mr Branson's free form management would be better focused on future opportunities, not the ones which got away.

RTZ's reckoning

WHEN even the hardest-headed of companies — and they don't come much more so than the mining group RTZ — begin believing all the global-degook about "a single world market" and the "borderless future", then trouble cannot be far away.

So it has proved. On October 9, Rio announced it was to "re-marry" its Australian partner company, CRA. The deal was clearly fraught with difficulty: whereas CRA was closely aligned with the policies of its base country, RTZ was close-ish to governments all around the world.

Questioning the deal along these lines on October 9 got short shrift from RTZ, which insisted Australia was happy to embrace the New Order of stateless corporations and to relegate government's strategic role to that of beaming gratefully whenever a multinational company deigned to make an investment.

Now comes the reckoning. Canberra has made bid clearance conditional on one-third of the merged board being Australian nationals and on the CRA part of the merged company managing all group assets in South America.

RTZ and CRA are keen to meet Australian regulators for "clarification" of these conditions before Wednesday, when extraordinary meetings of both sets of shareholders are due to vote on a merger that may not now happen.

It goes without saying that the Australian demands are incompatible with the merger as originally conceived. Whether RTZ will pull out, or push on in the hope that the conditions eventually wither, has yet to be seen.

But the moral of the story is this: don't take £4.5 billion decisions on the basis of interesting ideas about the world economy dreamed up by academics and journalists.

Card crashes

THIS year's deluge of corporate Christmas cards, more often than not signed by legions of unfamiliar names, shows a fascination with origami. The Serious Fraud Office card comes in the shape of a pyramid, decorated by London scenes, which like so many of the SFOs cases has an unfortunate tendency to collapse in a heap. The Virgin card converts into a glider. Needless to say extensive air trials in this office could not coax it into flying.

Then there is the more traditional card from HM Treasury: it shows the Rt Hon William Ewart Gladstone quaffing, like a person who had just seen the Government's new drinking rules. As the great man himself said: "We have been borne down in a torrent of gin and beer."

News in brief

MPs to probe Barings crash

A powerful committee of MPs is to make further inquiries in the new year into the £800 million collapse of Barings bank, after differences emerged between official reports produced in the UK and Singapore.

Treasury select committee chairman Sir Tom Arnold said it would want to investigate "discrepancies" between the two accounts.

Land subsidence

British Land's £222.5 million rights issue flopped, with 43 per cent of the 61.5 million new shares issued at 370p each left with the underwriters.

Higgs warning

Higgs & Hill warned that its profits for 1995 were likely to fall below market expectations as a result of the continuing difficulties in the group's markets. Shares of the construction company fell 10 per cent.

A bigger Mac

McDonald's, the fast-food group, said it would end the year with record international growth, having added 1,300 restaurants outside the United States and created 60,000 jobs. In 1994, it opened 751 non-US outlets.

Apple bruised

Shares of Apple Computer plunged yesterday when it disclosed that it would lose money in the final three months of 1995, despite an increase in sales. Apple cut prices earlier this month to keep up with competitors but the move eroded profit margins.

Vauxhall walkout

Management and unions at Vauxhall, where workers staged a second two-hour strike yesterday, last night refused to comment on growing speculation that the company has agreed to cuts in the 39-hour week and an improvement in its 3.5 per cent pay offer.

Yorkshire surges

Yorkshire Electricity, one of only three regional power companies not to have received a takeover bid, yesterday kept the door open to offers as it reported 13 per cent increase in profits to £110.6 million thanks to cost cuts which have claimed nearly 1,000 jobs in 12 months. The company said it wanted to remain independent but would look at deals which were good for shareholders.

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New code is aimed at 'evolution, not revolution'

Germany moves to clean up takeovers

Mark Milner
European Business Editor

GERMANY'S stock exchange committee will publish next month the names of listed companies that have signed up for the country's new takeover code.

Veterans of takeover battles on Wall Street and in the City will regard the provisions as modest. Companies which acquire more than 50 per cent of the shares in another have to make an offer for the rest within 18 months. There are also provisions governing the price that minority shareholders must be offered.

As in the UK, the code is voluntary. There are no sanctions against those who refuse to sign up. But Karl-Hermann Baumann, the finance director of Siemens and the chairman of the committee that drew up the rules, reckons that publishing the names of those who have accepted the system will expose those who refuse to "a certain public and moral pressure".

Mr Baumann argues that though the provisions are less onerous than in the UK, where the shareholding level at which a bid is triggered is 30 per cent, their effectiveness is enhanced by the German system of having a management and a supervisory board. "You get control of a company when you get control of the board. In Germany, half the [supervisory] board is elected by the labour force. You can't throw them out because they are elected by a very different constituency."

Mr Baumann has not hesitated to use another particularity of Germany's corporate structure — the close links between companies and their bankers — to help recruit support for the code. He wrote to the banks, asking not only for their acceptance, but also suggesting "they should make a commitment to influence their customers to adhere to the takeover code".

He is confident that the code is winning widespread acceptance and that next month's list will include most of the companies from Germany's DAX stock market index.

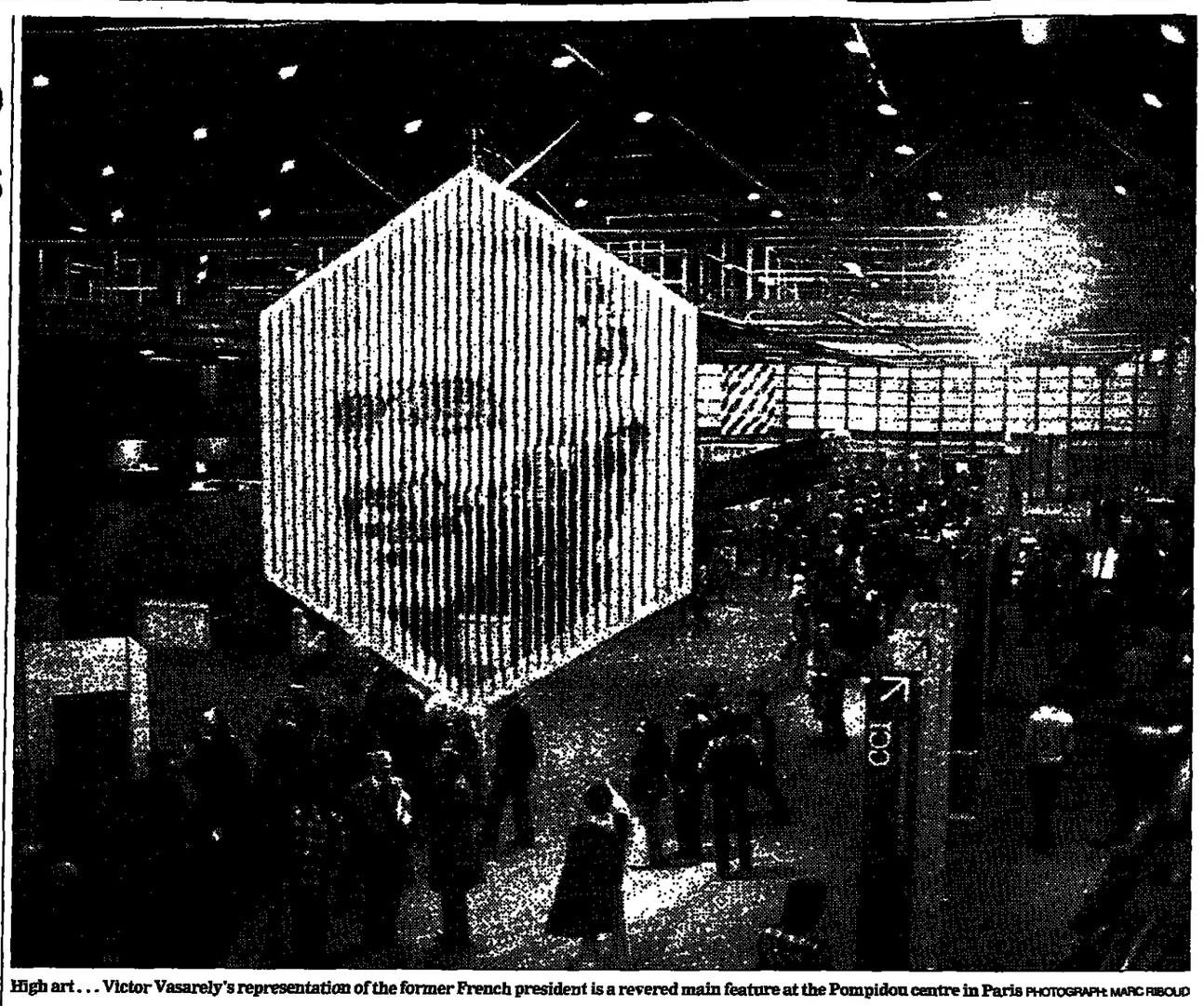
The takeover code is the latest in a series of reforms, including the outlawing of insider dealing and stricter disclosure requirements on shareholdings within the German financial scene. The debate about corporate governance is acquiring greater significance — the OECD's economic survey on Germany published at the end of August devoted a section to it.

The OECD noted: "The governance structure and associated financing patterns have tended to be rather stable in Germany. However, existing structures may also be seen as equilibrium outcomes, affected by incentives stemming from taxation and transfer systems as well as the economic environment more widely.

"To the extent these incentive structures change, the existing governance structures would need to evolve, especially given the increasing international integration of product and capital markets."

Mr Baumann argues against moving too quickly. Take the issue of cross shareholdings — a feature of corporate relationships in Germany. "I have always made it clear that I did not want to have [cross shareholdings] for Siemens," says Mr Baumann.

But he says there are significant technical problems in corporate Germany unwinding the network of links between quoted companies, banks and insurance companies. "If the banks had to reduce their holdings there is the question of who would buy the shares. If [the reduction] had to be done in a fairly short space of time there would be a significant dilution of German share prices," he says. The present structure has not served Germany badly, argues Mr Baumann. What is needed is "evolution, not revolution".



High art . . . Victor Vasarely's representation of the former French president is a revered main feature at the Pompidou centre in Paris PHOTOGRAPH: MARC RIBOUD

Summit welcome mat has £5.4m price tag

Hotels have few reservations but being at hub of Europe for a weekend has its costs. ADELA GOOCH reports from Madrid

AT THE rear entrance to the glitzy Villa Magna Hotel they were unloading the crates of champagne while at the front they were setting up security checks — symbolising how the EU summit brings revenue and headaches to the host city.

The cost of organising the summit is put at more than 1 billion pesetas (£5.4 million), of which setting up the venue — a gleaming new conference centre some five miles outside Madrid — accounts for about half. Eighty offices have to be organised; 400 telephone lines, 70 computers, 200 microphones, 40 photocopiers and 100 radio transmitters. Some 7,000 people have flooded into Madrid for the summit, 2,500 of them journalists. At the conference centre a team of electricians stands by in case of a power cut, and gardeners wait to revive to poinsettia arrangements should they start to fade.

Security accounts for much of the rest of the expense; a bill footed by the Spanish interior ministry. About 6,000 police have been deployed to patrol the conference centre and hotels where the delegations are staying. On Monday, the Basque separatist group ETA detonated a car bomb in southern Madrid, killing six people and sending a signal that, if it chose, it could target the summit.

Of course, murdering foreigners is bad publicity, but the attack embarrassed the Spanish government and made security measures even tighter.

Madrid's hotels welcome the guaranteed business that international gatherings bring. At the Villa Magna, one of the top hotels, the room rates range from 35,000 pesetas to 250,000 psetas.

"An event like this means a considerable change from the businessmen who make up our regular clientele," says Paloma Martinez, one of the hotel's managers. "We have to pay a little more attention to detail and protocol but at 100 per cent occupancy that is a minor quibble."

Down the road at the Palace Hotel, Lamberto Dini, Italy's prime minister, is paying 165,000 pesetas a night for the Oval Suite. The French and Germans are staying at the Ritz — 40,000 pesetas a night — while delegates from less powerful countries scout around for rooms at under 15,000 pesetas. Special rates have been negotiated for journalists, 10 per cent off the usual charge. "It is still worth our while," says Prado Nombella, reservations manager of the Tryp hotels chain, "because we can guarantee that our rooms will be filled."

For taxi drivers the summit is less of a bonanza. "It's a disaster for us," says one. "We're not allowed near the hotels because of security arrangements and the same happens at the airport. Most of the people are ferried around in official cars and buses, and the traffic is a nightmare."

Nevertheless, an underground railway strike and sudden cold snap meant a slight business boost, with the minimum fare being 1,200 pesetas for the run from the conference complex to the city centre.

Restaurants find pickings meagre. "The delegates are either too busy to eat or are at official dinners," says Ms Martinez. "You find them wanting to grab a snack but not much else."

Compared with the parties and champagne receptions in Madrid for the IMF meeting in autumn 1994, this summit is a modest affair. When the revenue and expenditure are compared, the numbers are likely to balance out. However, the summit can mean free publicity. On the eve of a council meeting, the leader of the Spanish opposition, Jose Maria Aznar, dined with Chancellor Helmut Kohl at Casa Lucio, a restaurant in the old centre of Madrid. Their beaming faces were on the front page of every Spanish newspaper the next day.

Renault drives into cultural storm as artist sues for damage to his panels

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

STAFF at Renault's head office thought nothing of placing an office partition across an aluminium panel hanging in their dining room. Until this week . . . when a court heard that they had damaged part of a £2 million work of art.

Victor Vasarely, whose "optical art" is a main feature at the Pompidou centre in Paris and which has inspired a craze for three-dimensional hidden images, claims the French car company has shown "resentment" for his work.

Vasarely, aged 89, is suing under a French law which protects the "moral right" of artists over their creations, even after they have been donated or sold.

The Hungarian-born artist's lawyer, Yann Streiff, told a court at Nanterre near Paris on Wednesday that Renault ordered 31 anodised aluminium panels for its head office in 1974 — 30 for the management dining area and one for the president's office.

The panels each measured more than two metres square and featured geometrical patterns. They had been hung integrally in relation to the light in the dining area.

Mr Streiff said several of the panels are now damaged and up to three have disappeared. "After rumours started circulating in the art world, we obtained a court order to inspect the offices at Boulogne-Billancourt.

"We found a partition across one panel where the legal department had expanded into the old dining room. Renault said another three panels had been put in the loft, though I only saw two. Renault has shown profound resentment for Vasarely's work," he said.

The semi-nationalised car company, which last year made a profit of nearly Fr5 billion (£654 million), ordered the works at a time when it was aiming to establish a modern art foundation to rival those of American corporations.

Throughout the 1970s, Renault gained a reputation for philanthropy, buying works from artists including Vasarely, Sam Francis, Jean Dubuffet and Jasper Jones. The eighth floor of its Boulogne-Billancourt office became a prized gallery space for top modern artists of the time.

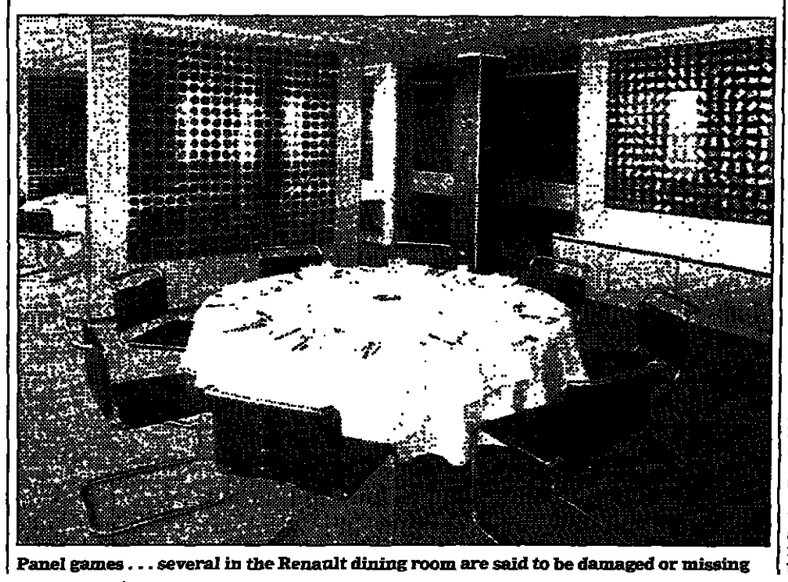
The court heard that the company's financial crisis in the 1980s had forced it to abandon its interest in art but it denies a claim that some works from its collection have been sold or given away.

Vasarely is bringing his case against Renault with the backing of a foundation in his name and the support of the Societé des Auteurs Dans les Arts Graphiques (Sadag), which protects artists' rights. The aluminium panels were sold to Renault for Fr 300,000 (£39,000) in 1974. But Mr Streiff said it was a knockdown price.

He believes the 30 panels produced for the dining room are now worth in the region of £2 million. Vasarely wants compensation or a pledge that the works will be restored and hung according to his instructions.

Mr Streiff, who is the legal adviser for Sadag, said: "The works by artists other than Vasarely were commissioned for the head office and for Renault Finance in Lausanne. We do not know what has happened to them, nor can we be certain how many artists are involved."

Renault says it has an inventory of all the art it owns and the list has not changed for 10 years. Judgment was reserved until January.



Panel games . . . several in the Renault dining room are said to be damaged or missing

Family feeling dictates changes at Fiat

As Gianni Agnelli prepares to vacate the chair of Italy's largest firm, JOHN GLOVER in Milan analyses the labyrinthine motives behind his clutch of new appointments

THIS week's announcement by the Fiat chairman, Gianni Agnelli, that he was planning to step aside in favour of Cesare Romiti, the group's hard-nosed chief executive, was greeted in the press as the end of a reign. And so it was. But the move by the man known to Italians as "l'Avvocato" (the lawyer) was also a delicate exercise in the dynastic politics of Fiat's ruling family.

Two questions were left unanswered by the move. First, why was Romiti, who at 72 is no spring chicken, selected for the top job when he will have to step down in under three years' time? Second, why had Giovanni Alberto Agnelli Jr, aged 31, Gianni's nephew and the man being groomed to take over as Fiat enters the next century, been left standing? This was underlined on Thursday when the board named Paolo Cantarella, managing director of Fiat Auto, as Romiti's replacement.

The answer to the first question is clear. Ten days ago, Turin magistrates asked a judge to send Romiti for trial on charges of bribing political parties, tax fraud and false company reporting. If the request is granted, judges will in effect find themselves trying the whole of Fiat, the most powerful company in Italian business. It is a prospect that few will relish.

Moreover, Fiat is an enormously complex company, with interests ranging from motor vehicles and industrial robots to insurance and newspaper publishing. It expects sales to be in the region of 76 trillion lire this year. There was a ring of truth in Agnelli's comment that Romiti's job would be to prepare "a new generation" of managers for coming decades.

The other part of the answer lies in the split at the top of the ruling family. On one side there is Romiti, who since 1980 has run Fiat in much the same way as a prime minister runs a country under a constitutional monarch. On the other side is Umberto, aged 61, Gianni's younger brother and the father of Giovannino, as Giovanni Jr is known.

Romiti has powerful backing where it really counts — in Mediobanca, the influential and secretive Milan merchant bank which is Fiat's closest ally.

The rivalry between Romiti and Umberto goes back more than two decades. In the late seventies the two were joint managing directors; in 1980, with the company in a seemingly terminal mess, Umberto was kicked upstairs to one of the holding companies through which the Agnellis control Fiat, to await his brother's retirement and his own turn at the top. Romiti, the strongman of Fiat, was given a free hand to set the company back on course in the 1980s. The two never had particularly good relations.

In 1993, l'Avvocato confirmed that Umberto would be his successor. But faced with a loss of 1.8 trillion lire — the worst in Fiat's 90-year history — together with spiralling debts and an urgent need of new capital, that idea was quashed by the company's banks. L'Avvocato and Romiti were to stay on to see through the cash injection of 5 trillion lire that Fiat was demanding. Umberto was sidelined. In consolation, Giovannino, his son, was chosen as the heir.

Behind Umberto's defeat was Enrico Cuccia, the head of Mediobanca, which led the rights issue. In 1974, it was Cuccia who suggested to Agnelli that he should hire Romiti. Romiti's son, Maurizio, is a senior executive at the bank. In return for the new cash, Mediobanca imposed a shareholders' committee to control the main board.

Deutsche Bank of Germany, the giant insurer Le Generali, the limping French conglomerate Alcatel — which recently said it hoped to raise cash by selling out — and Mediobanca itself are committee members. Agnelli, its chairman, intends to retain that position. A family controlled holding company called Ifi owns over 30 per cent of Fiat's voting stock. Agnelli said he would also remain chairman of Ifi.

Giovannino, regularly dubbed Europe's most eligible bachelor, is a member of the Fiat board and represents family interests on the shareholders' committee. He has been cutting his managerial teeth running Piaggio, the scooter-maker owned by his mother's family.

Meanwhile, Romiti, backed by Cuccia and his allies and by his old boss, Gianni, will decide who is running the most important province of the empire when Giovannino accedes to the throne. That will ensure Umberto is kept away from the levers of power.

Telekom offers share deal carrot to enforce sell-off

Katerina von Waldersee in Bonn

NEXT year's privatisation of Deutsche Telekom, Germany's state telephone monopoly, a prospect which has many workers fearing for their jobs, has suddenly become more attractive.

The carrot being dangled in front of the 250,000 employees is the opportunity to buy Telekom shares in investment schemes whose conditions are almost too good to be true.

In what Telekom's finance chief Joachim Kroeske called "an extraordinarily lucrative and absolutely secure form of share ownership", the staff can make up to five times their original investment and are protected against falls in the share price after the company is floated in November 1996.

The offer, one of the world's largest staff ownership programmes, is expected to break new ground in overcoming the traditional reluctance of small German investors to own shares. Only 5.4 per cent of people in Germany own shares, compared with around 17 per cent in Britain, and investments such as fixed-income bonds are much more popular.

Around 1.2 million staff shares have been offered by German companies so far. Shares especially aimed at the small investor issued by companies such as Volkswagen and the energy concern Veba have contributed.

About 150,000 Telekom employees are expected to take advantage of the offer, making up around 2 per cent of the flotation that will result in Europe's largest publicly traded company.

The offer will be managed by Union Bank of Switzerland, chosen by Telekom after stormy and unsuccessful negotiations with German banks including the two biggest, Deutsche and Dresdner.

Under the scheme, each employee will put DM300 (£135) into a trust supplemented by a loan of DM1,200 provided by UBS. Through the trust, the employee will thus be able to purchase five times as many shares as he would have been able to on his investment alone. During the six-year investment programme, UBS insures employees against any fall in share price, while shareholders forgo their dividends, which are used to finance the trust.

UK firms left out of Hungary's energy sale

Lucy Hooker in Budapest

HUNGARY has begun to rake in the proceeds of its energy sector sale of the century, flogging stakes in gas, electricity and oil companies.

The first country in eastern Europe to privatise its utilities, Hungary is wasting no time in concluding contracts. It has sold off five of its six gas supply companies for a total of £262 million to French, German and Italian gas companies. The sixth and final gas supplier was on the block again this week.

The unwieldy state electricity company has been hacked into 14 pieces. Six western European companies have agreed to pay £880 million to get their teeth into eight of the 13 new electricity generation and supply companies.

But despite years of strategically getting their foot in the door, British companies have so far come away empty-handed. British Gas said that it was "naturally very disappointed" after four years' hard slog in Hungary, at the end of which it was outbid by more than £35 million.

PowerGen purchased an independent power station in Budapest earlier this year, in the hope it would pave the way for the larger privatisations. But PowerGen has won nothing so far.

British institutional investors last month put around £45 million into an international private placement of shares in Hungary's largest company, the state oil and gas company, MOL.

Huge losses at Trafalgar House, page 22

Germany cleans up takeover code, page 23

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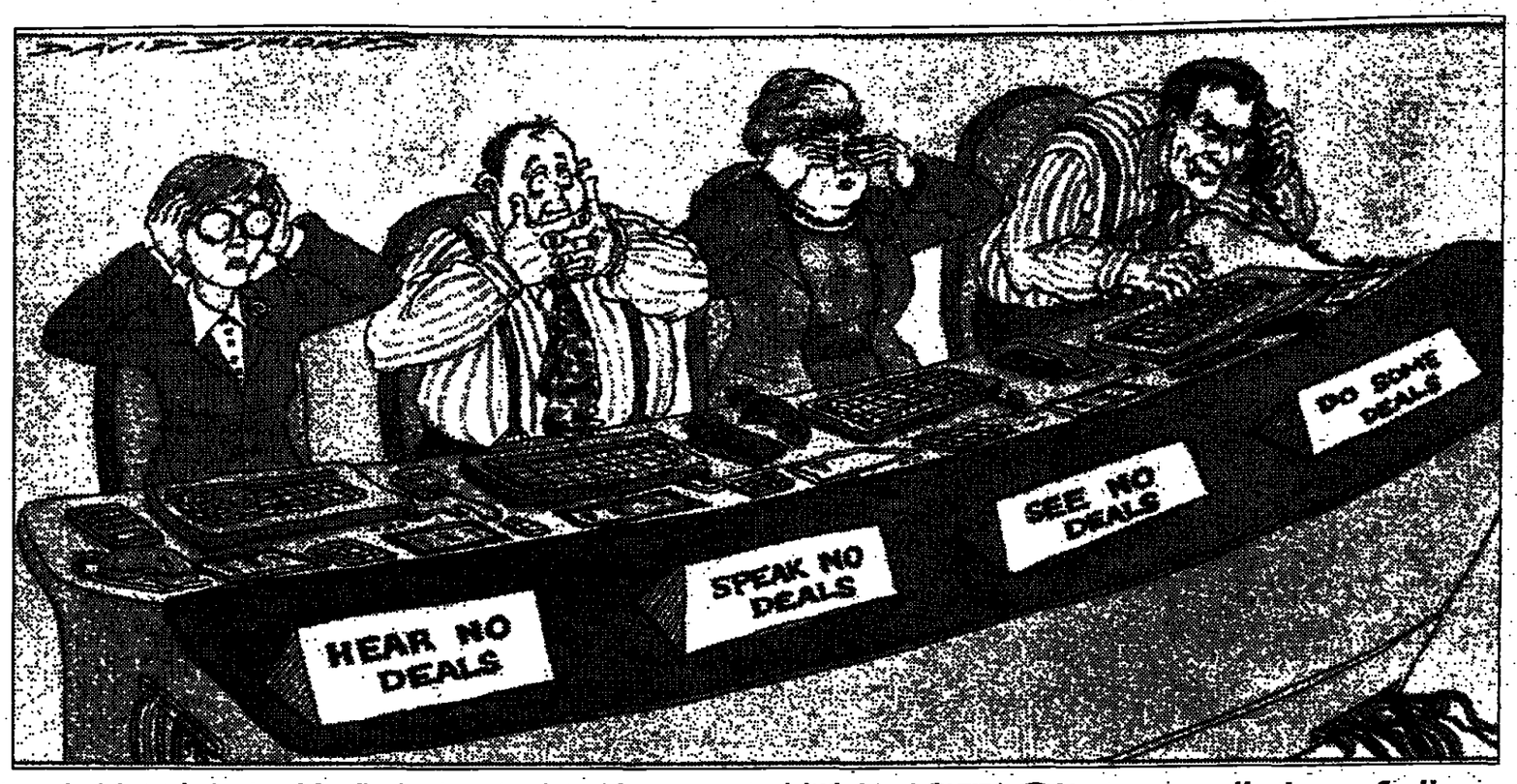
Finance **Guardian**

The punters who still like a tip

Despite tougher laws, insider dealers remain key players in share trading. PAUL MURPHY and PATRICK DONOVAN examine the market world of a nudge and a wink, while ALEX BRUMMER looks at the regulators' frustration



A CALIFORNIAN marriage counsellor, Mervyn Cooper, this week finally settled his bill with America's financial markets watchdog, the Securities and Exchange Commission. He did not admit a civil charge that last year — a week before the deal was announced — he picked up news from therapy sessions with a Lockheed executive that the defence contractor was merging with its rival Martin Marietta. But the marriage counsellor did agree to pay a $110,000 (£70,000) fine and return all the profits he had made trading in the shares.

Such a case is unlikely to arise in Britain — not because therapists here resist dealing on inside information (there are no statistics) — but because the British system of tracking down "insider dealers" and bringing them to book is in tatters.

It is a decade since Sir Martin Jacomb memorably described the practice of insider dealing on the stock market as a "victimless crime". The then-chairman of BZW, one of the City's most powerful trading houses, has been trying to distance himself from this remark every since. But 10 years on, assessing who exactly the victims are and pinpointing the real criminals remains as muddled as ever.

Even with progressively tightened legislation and regulation, the only certain outcome is the creation of an all-pervading sense of paranoia in the London stock market. This market, like financial markets everywhere, operates on information. But City professionals who work for some of the most reputable financial firms in the world are now restricted at every turn in what they can say, to whom and when. Only half in jest, it is said that the only safe course of business action is to have no information at all.

Meanwhile, the true practice of making money from advance knowledge of price sensitive information carries on as if nothing has changed. Witness the flurry of takeover deals, big and small, launched in London over the past year. It is hard to find one which didn't leak.

Officially, the crime of trading on price sensitive information is now considered so heinous that it can attract a penalty on a par with rape. Last March, the legislation was tightened further — the most important extension being that anyone passing inside information to someone else (who then trades on it) can also be guilty, even without profiting.

On top of this, the Stock Exchange regularly comes out with new guideless designed to control the flow of information coming out of companies and into the market. This week, for example, it is expected to issue guidelines on how and when utility regulators pass on their thoughts to the companies they regulate.

But for all the rules and all the instances of certain insider business, prosecutions by the DTI seem to have ground to a halt. After eight cases in 1993 (six acquittals, two convictions) there have been no prosecutions since. The 1995 act has yet to be tested.

Regular insider dealers have learned to live with the new rules. A short study of those insider prosecutions which have succeeded has shown them that so long as no one "coughs", the risk is negligible. One well-known exponent of the insider art gives a physical demonstration of his role. Aping a nightclub bouncer, the broker says: "My clients know the surveillance people will not get through me. If they come to me with a piece of information and they want to deal on it they do so with the understanding that if anyone asks any questions, such as why they bought the stock, they reply that their broker advised them to buy it.

"If they stick with that rule, hard and fast, we are both in the clear. The surveillance department can ring me up, they can turn up on my doorstep as they do nowadays, and all they will learn is that I told so-and-so to buy the stock because it looked undervalued — so undervalued that someone came and bid for the company a week later."

It is commonly assumed that real insiders are good at covering their tracks, operating behind the secrecy afforded by trusts registered in exotic offshore locations. In fact, the most prolific punters in London would only bother with such accessories for the tax breaks.

The broker goes on to explain some of the codes he uses to get around the practice of taped phone lines in just about all trading and fund management offices. Before the 1985 crackdown, insider dealing by insitutional managers was commonplace. Brokers providing sure-fire tips were rewarded with commission-earning business.

Brokers still need commissions, and while personal account trading by fund managers is much less prevalent, many still appreciate a good tip. The codes are crude — "the nod" might come in the form of a contrived: "This might make you laugh, but so-and-so stock looks oversold." Conversations involving greater insight are restricted to City bars, or to mobile phones, which are no longer regarded as just a flash gadget.

Meanwhile, regular rumours fly around the market. One says the compliance man at so-and-so broker has introduced special software to search through the bank tape recordings by telephone number, while another has the latest system that can actually pick up on the mention of a particular company's name while searching numerous taped conversations.

> A study of successful prosecutions has shown insider dealers that so long as no one 'coughs', the risk is negligible

The Stock Exchange has a 20-strong team of investigators monitoring unusual transactions. But morale in the surveillance department appears to be low, staff turnover is high, and former investigators (who move on to jobs in the private security sector or become compliance officers at City firms) freely admit that their job was purely one of deterrence — and an ineffectual one at that.

"The paper trails are easy to follow, the powers to compel people to talk are there, but producing enough proof to give a good chance of a criminal conviction is almost always impossible," one former investigator says.

But while spiv activity appears as rampant as ever in the City, botched attempts at handling the problem are fundamentally altering the way stock market practitioners conduct legitimate business.

Rule changes have also produced a few pieces of high farce. There was an entertaining show this week when a City public relations firm, Financial Dynamics, was reprimanded by the Takeover Panel for allegedly leaking price sensitive information on one of its clients, construction group Amec, which is fending off a hostile takeover bid from Norway.

Under insider dealing legislation, if the analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, who seems to have been given a steer on what profits Amec might make next year, passed on the information to someone who actually bought or sold Amec stock, the analyst himself could be facing up to seven years in prison or an unlimited fine.

In short, the Stock Exchange has decided that the best hope it has of eradicating insider dealing is to slap heavy controls on how potentially sensitive information is disseminated. This has meant a wholesale change in the way that companies communicate with their biggest shareholders and with those who deal on their behalf. It is now common for a finance director making a presentation to a fund manager, to be asked to sign a declaration swearing that he will not disclose anything price sensitive.

In the same spirit, companies are increasingly abandoning the practice of briefing industry analysts on a one-to-one basis. Instead, analysts are spoken to en masse, and any piece of potentially price-sensitive information is released through a formal statement.

This is fine in theory, but there is a view that the bureaucrats who frame the new rules are ignorant as to how the stock market operates. There is a suspicion that legislation has been tightened because earlier versions simply did not catch enough people.

Investors buy shares because they think they know something more than other market players — or in the words of one (retired) market commentator: "Everyone is insider than someone else."

Speculative activity accounts for a sizeable chunk of the market's daily turnover — and on many occasions the speculators are badly wrong. Rumours drive share prices up and down, and maintain many thousands of people in jobs. It might also be noted that those in possession of inside information can never be quite sure how a share price is going to react when a particular piece of news becomes public. There is always a financial risk.

City medicine fails to halt epidemic

SENIOR City regulators have become increasingly frustrated by their inability to deal with what amounts to an epidemic of insider trading. It is now recognised that almost every serious transaction on the stock market — such as the recent £3.4 billion offer by Granada for Forte — is preceded by unusual market activity. But it is no longer the case that these transactions can be relatively simply traced back to brokers and then clients by the Stock Exchange's surveillance department.

The changing nature of the marketplace has provided those enjoying privileged information with new ways of conducting their transactions. One is through trading in options on Liffe, the London futures market. Although Liffe is a highly regulated marketplace, much of the surveillance there is for adjudication in a dispute, rather than to catch outsiders.

As worrying to regulators, such as the Securities Investment Board, is the rise of the over-the-counter market in share options, which allows sophisticated traders to lay off their informed bets — in Forte shares, for instance — in marketplaces beyond the jurisdiction of traditional UK policing: this has become a critical regulatory concern.

Regulators now believe that the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985 is not an efficient tool for stamping out insider trading. The burden of proof required is too high, unless the fingerprints are unmistakable. Much of the evidence in insider trading cases is circumstantial rather than definitive.

Many insider-trading inquiries remain languishing on the shelves of the Department of Trade. Unravelling irregular share dealings is a subtle art which in most cases does not lend itself to the sledgehammer of the criminal system.

Ideally, in the view of the regulators such as Andrew Large of the Securities & Investment Board, the UK regulators need to have civilian enforcement powers. The criminal law should remain in place as an ultimate deterrent. Under a civilian system those found to be involved in share-dealing irregularities might escape with fines and restitution of their gains in return for their co-operation.

It is plain to all regulators that unless some civilian mechanisms are added to the current criminal approach, insider trading will pose a threat to the integrity of the London markets.

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Gerry sets the pace

Lisa Buckingham

GERRY Robinson, the Granada chief, may win or lose his battle for control of the Forte hotels group. But the man who is masterminding the £3.4 billion assault has a valuable lesson for workers on any rung of the ladder.

For Mr Robinson is one of those rare specimens who work only 30 hours a week, and he cherishes time with his family.

This lean schedule has been eclipsed temporarily by the rigours of the takeover timetable. But it seems likely that once Forte is done and dusted, Mr Robinson will return to spending most Fridays playing golf with his son.

Most people may not be able to claim, as Mr Robinson does, that running a multi-billion-pound corporation is "simple", little more than making a dozen or so clear decisions a week.

But many would do well to emulate Mr Robinson's concentration on the quality of work rather than the quantity of time.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI who is now widely regarded as a business guru, is another who stresses the need for executives to take all their holidays and to devote as many weekends as possible to home.

Yet further down the working scale, insecurity caused by the threat of redundancy is prompting employees to put in longer and longer hours in the hope this will make them exempt from the chop.

As business seeks to save costs by reducing what is usually its most expensive commodity, people, the workload on the rest will increase, although evidence suggests that the pressure is not as great as many feel.

One reason for this is the confusion between being present at your desk and doing something productive while you are there.

A number of recent studies have shown that the longer people work, the less effective they tend to become. The longer they work, the less they see of their families, which helps to create a stressed employee who functions even more poorly the next day.

Increasingly, companies are beginning to recognise that employee stress is one of the major workplace problems in the 1990s.

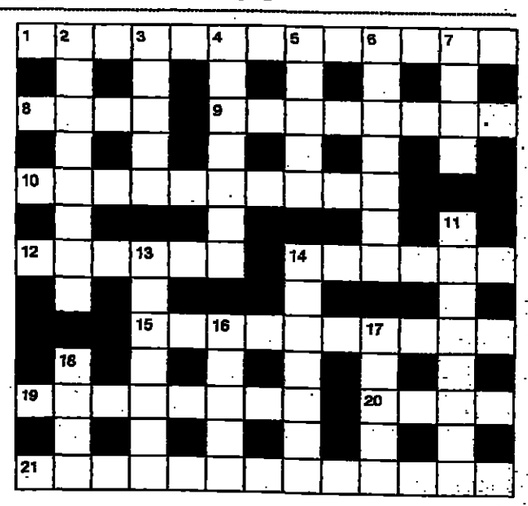
Stress-related absenteeism already costs the country billions of pounds a year. It actually costs more to have someone sitting at a desk for 10 hours if they could accomplish the same in half the time, while the proliferation of stress-counselling in big business is adding to the overheads.

There is also a growing concern that the creativity and strategic thinking which successful companies need from their employees is being destroyed because unnecessarily long hours diminish motivation.

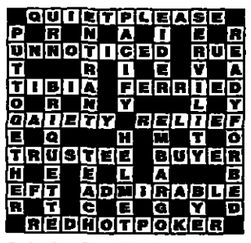
In the booklet Dear Alicia, just published by ECI Ventures and containing words of wisdom to a school-leaver from captains of industry, it is clear that hard work and persistence are ranked highly. But the advice is scattered with the need to enjoy life and to regard work as fun.

The British workplace is clearly better off without its former problem of absenteeism. But that does not mean the cult of the workaholic should go unquestioned. After all, a 30-hour week does not appear to have done Gerry Robinson too much harm.

Quick Crossword No. 7999



Solution No. 7998



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Across

1 Scarce (2,5,6)
8 Russian city — chicken dish (4)
9 —— chance (8)
10,15 Early form of striptease? (5,2,3,5,5)
12 Frightened (6)
14 Common clothing material (6)
15 See 10
19 City on the Arno (8)
20 Loathe (4)
21 Premier (5,8)

Down

2 Inconvenience (8)
3 Chaps (5)
4 Answer (7)
5 Brief — drink of spirits (5)
6 Long-suffering — person in hospital (7)
7 Railway track (4)
11 Game of chance — Russian? (8)
13 Platform (7)
14 Business — interest (7)
16 Poison (5)
17 Distinctive characteristic (5)
18 Obscure (4)

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